

Don't
forget

Fitch

Don't
PRINT
HOLD ME

Fitch

NATHANIEL and SARAH DE LONG FITCH

DON'T
PRINT

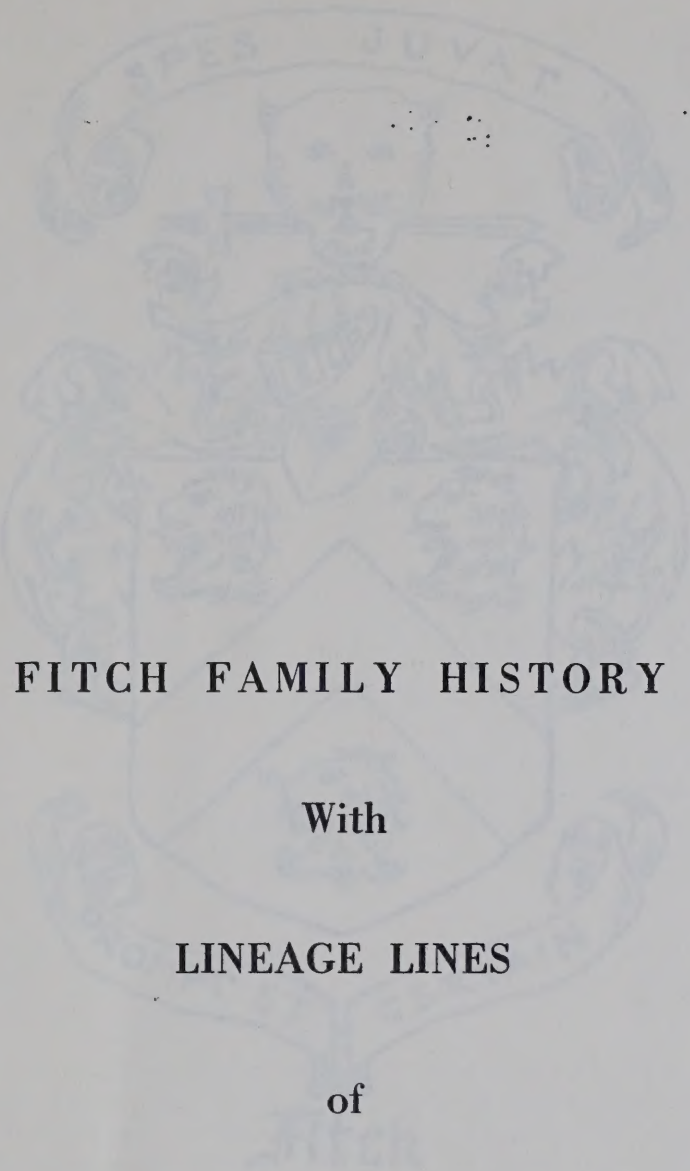
Needs more

Don't
Print

Fitch

LINEAGE LINES

NATHANIEL and SARAH DE LONG FITCH



FITCH FAMILY HISTORY

With

LINEAGE LINES

of

NATHANIEL and SARAH DE LONG FITCH

The Fitch family of New England has a long and distinguished history and the name is one of the most prominent in the annals of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Among the early settlers of New England was John Fitch, who came to the colony in 1630 and was one of the founders of the town of Fitchburg.

The Fitch family of New England has a long and distinguished history and the name is one of the most prominent in the annals of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Fitch family of New England has a long and distinguished history and the name is one of the most prominent in the annals of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



FITCH COAT OF ARMS

THE FITCH COAT OF ARMS HAS A VERY ANCIENT ORIGIN AND THE RIGHT TO THE USE OF THE ARMS HAS BEEN A PROUD PEROGATIVE OF SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS THROUGH THE CENTURIES.

THERE ARE FEW FAMILIES IN AMERICA WHO CAN TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY AS FAR BACK AS THE ESTABLISHED ENGLISH "PEDIGREE OF FITCH" OR USE AS ANCIENT A COAT OF ARMS BY OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

THE CLAIM OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS FITCH, ESQ. OF BOCKING, COUNTY ESSEX, ENGLAND, FATHER OF FOUR FITCH BROTHERS WHO SETTLED IN CONNECTICUT TO THE USE OF BOTH ANCIENT AND 16TH CENTURY FITCH ARMS WAS PROVEN TO SATISFACTION BY THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BY WINCHESTER FITCH, ESQ. WHO SUBMITTED HIS PROOFS TO THE COMMITTEE ON HERALDRY AND THE FITCH ARMS WERE INCLUDED IN THE SOCIETY'S "ROLL OF ARMS".

THE FITCH FAMILY IS ONE OF 72 AMERICAN FAMILIES THUS ENROLLED.

THE SHIELD OR ESCUTCHEON IS THE FIELD ON WHICH THE BEARINGS ARE GROUPED; IT IS DESCRIBED AS "VERT" MEANING GREEN - SIGNIFYING MIRTH, LOVE, GLADNESS.

A CHEVERON MEANS A BAR OF TWO PIECES COMING TOGETHER, RAFTED LIKE, FORMING AN INVERTED "V".

THE WIDTH OF THE ARMS IS ONE FIFTH OF THE LENGTH OF THE SHIELD; ITS ORNAMENTATION IS DESCRIBED AS OR MEANING GOLD OR YELLOW - SIGNIFYING POWER OR SOVEREIGNTY.

AMONG ANIMALS ON COAT OF ARMS THE LION HOLDS MOST IMPORTANT PLACE, AS EARLY AS THE TWELFTH CENTURY THE KING OF BEASTS WAS ASSUMED AS AN APPROPRIATE EMBLEM FOR ARMS OF DUKES. THE LEOPARD AS THE EMBLEM FOR ARMS OF LORDS.

THAT THE FITCHES WERE WARRIORS OF BRAVE HEART AND STRONG ARM IS PROVEN BY THE FITCH COAT OF ARMS, FOR THE CHEVERON BETOKENS ACHIEVEMENT OF IMPORTANT TRUSTS, AND WAS GIVEN ONLY TO MILITARY LEADERS OF GREAT VALOR WHOSE COURAGE AND PROWESS COULD BE DEPENDED ON IN BATTLE.

THE HERALDIC WREATH IS MADE UP FROM THE FIRST TWO COLORS OF THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS - GREEN AND YELLOW OR GOLD. THE WREATH FORMS A SUPPORT FOR THE CREST, A LEOPARDS FACE OF GOLD. THIS MEANS THAT THE HEAD IS YELLOW, BORNE ON THE WREATH WITHOUT ANY PART OF THE NECK SHOWING - FULL FACED.

"IN HIS MOUTH A SWORD PROPER", MEANS THAT THE SWORD IS THRUST THROUGH THE MOUTH. THE HILT OF THE SWORD IS READY; THIS BETOKENS "STRENGTH AND BOLDNESS WITH HARDINESS".

THE SCROLL IS THE ORNAMENT PLACED BENEATH THE SHIELD ON WHICH THE MOTTO IS ENGRAVED. THE MOTTO ALLUDES TO BEARINGS OR GREAT AND DARING ACTIONS. THUS THE MOTTO "PROMPTUS ET CERLUS" DENOTES PROMPT AND DETERMINED - READY TO SERVE.

AND THE WORDS ABOVE SIGNIFY GREAT FAITH. "SPES JUVAT" IN LIBERAL TRANSLATION MEANS "HOPE IS EVERY PRESENT".

EXCERPTS FROM
ROSCOE CONKLING FITCH

FITCH FAMILY
HISTORY OF 1930

INTRODUCTION

This book was compiled from family records of the Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch Family.

A great deal of credit should go to the historians of the family reunions - -

Gladys Fitch	July 4, 1918
Carolyn Kell Davis	July, 1961

Much honor and praise goes to Helen Stratton Bowlby who spent years of research, letter writing and reading in compiling the geneology and earliest history of the Fitch family of England and early America.

Particular attention was given to avoiding errors, "but to err is human". It was noted that dates of birth did not always agree with dates listed in another record; however, they were entered as found in our historical books of records from first reunion held in Allen County from 1901 to 1970.

Abbreviations used:

P — Page
M — Married
b — born
d — died
B.P. — Burial Place
Issue — Number of Children (Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch)
c & ch — Number of Children in the Early Fitch History

Officers and Committee

President	Ivan Fitch
Secretary	Rebecca Bailey
Treasurer	Helen Hawver
Historians	Carolyn Davis, Chairman Helen Bowlby Mr. & Mrs. Warren Fitch

— INDEX —

<i>Coat of Arms</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Description of Coat of Arms</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Index</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Fitch Family Picture — 1884</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Six Sisters and Five Brothers</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>Four Generations — Sarah Elizabeth Fitch & Grandchildren</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Progenitors — Homestead — Tombstone</i>	<i>viii</i>
<i>Early History of Fitch Family</i>	<i>1 — 4</i>
<i>Rev. James Fitch — Major James Fitch</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Samuel Fitch — Captain Daniel Fitch</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Captain John Fitch — Captain Jeremiah Fitch</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Rev. Jabez Fitch — Captain Nathaniel Fitch</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Joseph Fitch — Deacon Eleazer Fitch — Captain John Fitch II</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>The Fitch Family</i>	<i>10 — 12</i>
<i>Descendants of Governor William Bradford</i>	<i>13 — 14</i>
<i>Picture — Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Nathaniel Fitch</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Descendants of</i>	
<i>Nathaniel & Sarah Keeler Fitch</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Nathaniel & Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Perry Fitch Family</i>	<i>18 — 28</i>
<i>Mathias Fitch Family</i>	<i>29 — 37</i>
<i>Jane Beers Family</i>	<i>38 — 42</i>
<i>Charles Fitch Family</i>	<i>43 — 46</i>
<i>Amos Fitch Family</i>	<i>47 — 49</i>
<i>Jerome D. Gloyd Family</i>	<i>50 — 54</i>
<i>Christian Norman Fair Family</i>	<i>55 — 58</i>
<i>Harvey Fitch Family</i>	<i>59 — 66</i>
<i>Sarah E. Fitch Stratton Family</i>	<i>67 — 70</i>
<i>Allen Fitch Family</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>Ida Alice Fitch Family</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>Emeline Fitch Family</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>David Fitch Family</i>	<i>74 — 77</i>

(

(

(



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd— Bessie Fitch and Margarite Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch - Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.

(

(

(



THE SIX SISTERS

SEATED

Francelia Fitch Fair, Jane Fitch Beers, Fitelia Fitch Gloyd,
Emma Fitch Hartzell

STANDING

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton and Ida Fitch Mason



FIVE BROTHERS

David Fitch, Allen Fitch, Harvey Fitch, Amos Fitch and Charles Fitch.

This Picture was taken in South St. Paul, Minnesota.





THE FOUR GENERATIONS

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, her oldest child Perry Fitch, her first grandson William Seymour Fitch and her first great grandchild, Victor Fitch.



SARAH ELIZABETH FITCH and THIRTY-ONE GRANDCHILDREN

- FIRST ROW — Marguerette Fitch, Cecil Fitch, Marguerite Stratton, Marie Fitch, Helen Fitch and Helen Stratton
- SECOND ROW — Bert C. Fitch, William Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Earnest Fitch, Schuyler Fitch, John Fitch, Kelsey Fitch and Burgess Fitch
- THIRD ROW — Bessie Fitch Kell, Audrey Fitch, Pearl Fitch, Stella Gloyd, Hurshel Fitch, Nina Fitch, Gladys Fitch and Della Gloyd.
- FOURTH ROW — Frank Fitch, Parker Fitch, Beatrice Fitch, George Fitch, Althea Fitch, Rolland Fitch, Otis Gloyd, Claude Fitch, Norma Gloyd and Harold Stratton

This Picture was taken in 1905 at the Fitch Home where the grandmother lived. It was the 4th of July and the fourth Fitch Family Reunion.

(

(

(



The Progenitors

FIRST ROW

Emma Fitch Hartzell, David Fitch, Francelia Fitch Fair,
Fitelia Fitch Gloyd (The Twins)

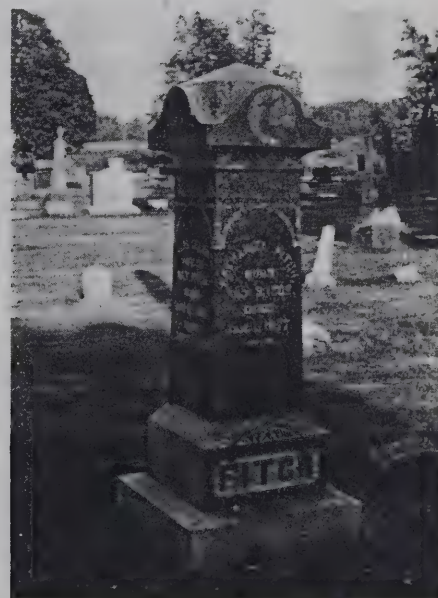
SECOND ROW

Amos Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Jane Fitch Beers,
Ida Fitch Mason and Mathias Fitch

This Picture was taken on July 4th, 1914 at the 13th Fitch Reunion held at the Perry Fitch Home in DeKalb County, Indiana. Kenneth Beers was the photographer.



THE OLD FITCH HOMESTEAD



THE FITCH TOMBSTONE

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FITCH FAMILY

There is some question as to whether the Fitch Family descended from the Normans or the Saxons. Several distinguished Fitch men who have made a study of the family history think the family goes back to the Norman Conquest of 1066 AD and give this as proof: "Morant's History of County Essex, England says that Robert de Gernon came from France with William the Conqueror. William the Conqueror gave to this Robert Gernon, his blood relative, the manor of Waysbury as a special donation. Gernon held it as part of his barony of which the head was at Stanstead-Montfichet in Essex. He built a castle on a hill which he presented to his son William de Gernon who dropped the name de Gernon and assumed the name Montfichet. William married Margaret, daughter of Gilbert, second Lord of Clare. They had a son Gilbert de Montfichet who had a son Richard de Montfichet. He was one of the barons at Runnymede in 1225 AD who wrested the charter from King John and was one of the twenty-five barons appointed to rule the realm. In 1236 he was made Justice of the Royal Forest in Essex and in 1242 High Sheriff of Essex, and Hertfordshire and Governor of Hertfordshire Castle. His third son, Roger de Montfichet, had a son John who tired of the prefix "Mont" and spelled his Fitch, leaving off the "t". He was granted Armorial bearings in the year 1263 and was of the "Fitch Castle of the North" in 1294."

Professor Asa Fitch was of the opinion that the English Fitches were not Norman but Saxon. He compiled a genealogy, which was never published. At his death the manuscript was deposited with the New York Genealogical Society and can be seen at the Society's Building in New York City. He believed that the Fitches are one of the old Anglo-Saxon families of England who came over when they subdued the Ancient Britons and drove them into Wales and Cornwall and that they settled in East Saxony or Essex about 530 AD.

"In the Herald's Visitations to Essex the Fitch Family is traced back step by step to William the second son of John Fitch who was living in Fitch Castle in the parish of Widdington in the North West part of Essex in the twenty-second year of the reign of Edward I, 1294 AD, two hundred years before Columbus discovered America.

Whatever race we came from we do know that John Fitch of "Fitch Castle of the North" in Widdington, County Essex, is the direct ancestor of the four Fitch brothers who settled in Connecticut, and that he was living in 1294 AD. His name appears as of that date in the ancient records of the British Museum, London. Members of the Fitch Family bore a coat of arms through the centuries as substantiated by the Ancient Records of the College of Arms, and the British Museum."

William Fiche (Fyche)

Second son of John Fitch who lived in Fitch Castle of the North in 1294 AD. b. about 1400. Received a grant of lands in the Manor of Widdington, Essex County, January 18, 1441. Bought other lands there from Richard Pelworth January 16, 1459. Death reported at Court of Manor held April 24, 1468.

His son

John Fytche

Found to be heir of his father by Inquisitions April 24, 1466 and May 14, 1467. He was then thirty years old. His death was reported at the Court of Manor of Widdington held April 9, 1468.

M. Juliana - - - -. She was appointed guardian of their son April 9, 1468. Her death was reported at the Court of Manor of Widdington held November 9, 1514.

(

(

(

His son
Thomas Fitch

Found to be heir of his father by Inquisition April 9, 1468, he being then three years old. He was admitted to his inheritance November 8, 1487 and to his mother's lands in Widdington November 9, 1514. His death was reported at the Court of Manor of Widdington November 5, 1514 and at the Court of Manor of Lindsell December 23, 1514. M. Agnes Alger, also Algore, only child and heir of Robert Algore, Lord of the Castle Brasonhead and other lands. She was admitted tenant of her father's lands December 21, 1493. She died before September 25, 1533.

His son
Roger Fitch

Of Panfield and Bocking, Essex County, England. He was admitted tenant of Hartshede etc. in Lindsell (being his mother's lands) September 25, 1533. He was mentioned in the Court of Rolls of Widdington May 6, 1546. Held a house and free-land in Bocking and a house in Bredford Street there which he bought of William Dobson. His will, dated January 1558/9 was proved February 22, following in the Consistory Court of London, England. M. Margery - - - - who was the sole executrix of her husband's will 1559.

His son
George Fitch

Of Braintree aforesaid, afterwards of Sudbury and subsequently of Edwardstone, Suffolk County. Mentioned in his father's will of 1559, he being then 21. Bought a house and land in Ballingdon Essex County from John Sheppearde (Fine Michelmias 1603). Mentioned as deceased in the will of his cousin Thomas Fitch of Margaretting, 1606. His will dated May 1605 was proved June 18 following P.C.C.

M. first, Joan Thurgood of Elsenham, Essex County, at Canfield. Marriage license (Bishop of London) September 13, 1574. Second wife, Bridget, widow firstly of John Goss of Edwardstone secondly of John French of Edwardstone whose will, dated January 1602, was proved March 3 following P.C.C. Died August 29 1603, buried at Edwardstone 30th of same month. Third wife, Joane, widow of - - - - Taylor. Mentioned in her husband's will of 1605.

His son
Thomas Fitch

He was the eldest son of George Fitch and Joan Thurgood Fitch. He was born 1590 and christened 1598. He was a great land owner and cloth manufacturer. He was possessed of a large amount of real and personal property for that day as evidenced by the fact that his wife, was required to give bond for as much as 2000 pounds. He died January 1632. His will was dated December 1632 and proved February 12, 1632/3.

M. Anne, daughter of John Reve of Gosfield Essex County at St. Mary's Church in Bocking Essex County, August 8, 1611. Sole executrix to her father's will 1633 and to her son Nathaniel 1649. After her husband's death she accompanied four of her sons to the New World and was living with her son Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut in 1669.

His sons
Thomas Fitch
Rev. James
Samuel
Joseph

b. October 14, 1612

M. Anne Stacie, daughter of William Stacie of Bocking on November 1, 1632. He served in the Parliamentary Wars in England and came to America in 1650. He was known as "MR" in 1654. In 1655 Thomas Fitch and Richard Olmstead were appointed by the colony of Norwalk to "Look after the Indians". They had under their command eighteen horsemen, four of whom were from Norwalk. They must have had a quieting effect on the Indians as they did not cause the people of Norwalk much trouble until 1675. In 1655, Thomas Fitch was chosen by the town of Norwalk, clerk of their Train Band and confirmed as "Recorder of Laws" by the General Court February 26, 1659. He was Selectman in 1659, King's Commissioner in 1669 and every year thereafter for twenty-five years. He was Deputy to the General Court in 1673, 1676, 1680-86, 1691-2, and 1694 and Deputy Governor of Connecticut. At the town meeting held December 28, 1686, the "Towne did vote Mr. Thomas Fitch for to be seated in the upper, great round seat in the Meeting House as he is the King's Commissioner".

Rev. James Fitch

Born in Bocking, Essex County on December 24, 1622. He was the first of the four brothers to come to America, arriving in 1638 aged sixteen years as stated on the inscription of gravestone in the old cemetery in Lebanon, Connecticut. He finished his theological training under the Reverend Thomas Hooker and Reverend Samuel Stone. Cotton Mather placed the Reverend James in his second class of New England ministers, consisting of "young scholars whose education for their designed ministry not being finished, came over from England with their friends and had their education perfected in this country before the college was old enough in maturity to bestow its laurels". Rev. James Fitch was ordained at Saybrook, Connecticut in 1646 as the first minister of the newly founded church. The ceremony a Congregational ordination in the strictest sense of the term, was graced by the presence of Rev. Hooker and Rev. Stone. In May 1659, the people of Saybrook signed a petition making application to the General Court of Connecticut for permission to found a new settlement, at Norwich. This permission was granted. There was a good deal of contention as to whether Rev. James Fitch would go to Norwich or remain at Saybrook as he was greatly beloved by both sides. After solemn prayer and great deliberation, he decided to go with the majority and considered such as his duty. This left Saybrook without a pastor for over ten years. In his later years the Rev. James Fitch retired to Lebanon Connecticut which he founded in 1702 and named in memory of the "lofty Cedars of Lebanon" famed in the Bible as being used by Solomon to build the Temple.

Samuel Fitch

Mentioned in his father's will of 1632 and that of his brother Nathaniel in 1648. The earliest positive record of him is that he was engaged in 1650 to keep the school of Hartford for three years beginning January 1, 1649/50 and was a freeman in 1651. He is spoken of as "MR" which proves that he ranked as a gentleman. Like his brothers he was prominent in local affairs. He was representative to the General Court 1654-55, He married Mrs. Susannah Whiting, widow of "Worshipful Mr. William Whiting" of Hartford Connecticut. He died in 1659.

Joseph Fitch

Mentioned in his father's will of 1632 and that of his brother Nathaniel in 1648. He was the youngest of four brothers. He settled in Norwalk with his oldest brother Thomas but remained there only three years. He sold his property to Mark St. John (Sention) and went from Norwalk to Northampton, Massachusetts in 1655, and then back to Hartford in 1660. He married Mary Stone, youngest daughter of the Rev. Samuel Stone. Before 1672, he removed to Windsor, Conn. where he purchased a twentieth part of the town. He was alive in 1713. He was Representative to the General Council 1662-1668. His farm was situate near the boundary lines of the present towns of East Hartford and East Windsor, Connecticut. One of his descendants was Lieutenant John Fitch of steam boat fame.

There has been much uncertainty as to the exact date of the arrival of these four Fitch brothers and their Mother in America. Samuel and Joseph are mentioned in the will of their brother Nathaniel in 1648 as living in England. Thomas, Samuel and Joseph are on Colonial Records of 1650 so apparently they came sometime between 1648 and 1650. James came first in 1638. Thomas and Joseph are among the founders of Norwalk. Joseph was living with his mother in Hartford on October 21, 1669 and Samuel is mentioned as a school teacher in Hartford, Connecticut.

This material is taken from the "History of the Fitch Family" compiled by Roscoe Conkling Fitch and published by the Fitch Family on March 11, 1930.

REVEREND JAMES FITCH

- b. December 24, 1622 Bocking Essex County, England, son of Thomas Fitch and Anne Reeve.
- d. November 18, 1702 Lebanon, Connecticut, aged 80 years.
- m. October, 1648 1. Abigail Whitfield who died September 9, 1659 at Saybrook, Connecticut.
- c. August 2, 1649 1. Major James Fitch
- August 1650 2. Abigail, m. Cap't. John Mason. Two children.
- January 1651/2 3. Elizabeth, m. Rev. James Taylor, September 5, 1674, had eight children, most of whom died young. She died in 1689.
- September 1653 4. Hannah, m. Thomas Meeks (Mix) of New Haven, Connecticut, June 30, 1679. Lived in Norwich. Had nine children.
- April 16, 1655 5. Samuel (Record follows)
- April 1658 6. Dorothy — was second wife of Nathaniel Bissell of Windsor, Connecticut. Had two children. She died June 28, 1691.
- m. 2. Priscilla Mason (she was living in 1710.)
- c. August 16, 1665 7. Captain Daniel Fitch
- January 1667 8. Captain John Fitch
- April 1672 9. Captain Jeremiah Fitch
- April 1675 10. Rev. Jabez Fitch
- 11. Anne, m. Lt. Joseph Bradford, only son of Major William Bradford of Plymouth by his second wife. Settled at Norwich but removed to Lebanon, Connecticut. No children.
- October 1679 12. Captain Nathaniel Fitch
- November 1681 13. Joseph Fitch
- May 14, 1683 14. Deacon Eleazer Fitch

MAJOR JAMES FITCH (1)

- b. August 2, 1647/9 Born at Saybrook, Conn. Founded Canterbury, Conn. Eldest son of Rev. James Fitch. One of the most prominent of the colonists. He was land surveyor; land registrar, land speculator; land owner, distinguished soldier, magistrate, statesman, and champion of the people. One of the founders and earliest patrons of Yale University.
- m. 1. Elizabeth Mason, daughter of Major John Mason.
- c. January 1678 1. James, died young.
- June 1679 2. James, died early, unmarried.
- 3. Jedediah, settled in Nantucket, Mass. and left descendants.
- July 12, 1683 4. Samuel, Left descendants.
- 5. Elizabeth
- m. 2. Mrs. Alice Bradford Adams, widow of Rev. William Adams and daughter of Deputy-Governor William and Alice Richards Bradford, and a grand-daughter of Governor William Bradford of the Mayflower.

MAJOR JAMES FITCH (Continued)

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|--|
| c. | February 22, 1688 | 6. | Abigail, m. Col. Dyer of Canterbury, Conn. |
| | January 10, 1690 | 7. | Ebenezer, m. Bridget Brown September 18, 1712. |
| | February 1693 | 8. | Daniel |
| | 1695 | 9. | John Stiles pg. 262 |
| | 1697 | 10. | Bridget |
| | 1699 | 11. | Jerusha m. Daniel Bissell |
| | 1701 | 12. | William |
| | 1703 | 13. | Col. Jabez, had a son Jabez. RCF pg. 52, Vol. II |

SAMUEL FITCH

Second son, fifth child of Reverend James & Abigail Fitch

b. April 16, 1655

d.

m. November 28, 1678

Mary Brewster, daughter of Benjamin Brewster, granddaughter of Jonathan Brewster and great granddaughter of Elder William Brewster of the Mayflower.

c. March 10, 1679/80

October 5, 1681

January 7, 1683

February 15, 1684

February 1, 1686

November 28, 1688

March 29, 1691

May 17, 1693

June 3, 1695

February 18, 1698

1. Mary
2. Samuel, died young.
3. Hezekiah
4. Elizabeth
5. Abigail
6. Samuel
7. Deacon Benjamin
8. John
9. Jabez
10. Pelatiah

CAPTAIN DANIEL FITCH

Third son, seventh child of Rev. James Fitch/ He settled at New London (at a place now known as Montville, Conn.)

b. August 16, 1665

d. June 3, 1711

He was an active soldier in the Indian wars of his day, owned three farms, one at Dry Brook, one lying on both sides of "the Connecticut path" (the road to Hartford through Colchester) and a homestead at Trading Cove, which was the town grant to his father.

m. March 1698

Mary Sherwood. She was either the widow or daughter of Cap't. Matthew Sherwood of Fairfield, Connecticut, who married Mary Fitch, the daughter of Thomas Fitch I of Norwalk. Mary Fitch Sherwood is named in the will of Thomas Fitch I.

c. April 1700

October 18, 1702/3

January 1704

September 1707

1. Cap't. Adonijah who married Anne Dennison, lived in Lebanon.
2. Cap't James
3. Lemuel
4. Mary, m. in 1726 to Rev. James Hillhouse, first minister to Montville, Conn. and probably ancestor of all that name in this country.
m. sec. Rev. John Owen, of Groton, Conn. in 1740.
She died in 1768.
5. Daniel, m. November 16, 1732, Sarah Sherwood, daughter of Samuel Sherwood of Stratford, now Bridgeport, Connecticut.

CAPTAIN JOHN FITCH

b. January 1667

d. May 24, 1743
age 75.

m.

c. June 6, 1696

He received from his father, May 13, 1696, the gift of a thousand acres right in Windham, Conn., the home lot of which was # 13 at the center, and the house built by him remained in the family over one hundred years. He had a superior education for that day and was a prominent and useful citizen. He was chosen Town Clerk of Windham, Dec. 4, 1704 which office he held by successive annual re-elections until his death, a period of 38 years. Also for a short time he was Judge of the Probate Court, Captain of the militia, and represented the town in the Colonial Legislature at 20 different sessions. He first "owned the Covenant" in the Norwich church of which he was a full member in 1700. He was a gentleman of wealth, high social position, and great influence. He married Elizabeth Waterman, eldest daughter of Thomas and Miriam Tracy Waterman of Norwich, Conn. He was 75 years old when he died. She died June 25, 1751 at the age of 76.

1. Elizabeth, m. Nathaniel Webb of Windham, Conn., son of Samuel Webb, the first Windham settler of that name, and became the ancestor of the Windham and Scotland, Conn. Webb families.
2. Miriam, m. Hezekiah Riley of Windham. Died in 1744. No children.
3. Priscilla, m. Samuel Paine of Canterbury, Connecticut.
4. Captain John Fitch II. He married in 1731, his second cousin Alice Fitch, daughter of Ebenezer Fitch of Windsor, Connecticut, granddaughter of Major James Fitch and great granddaughter of Reverend James Fitch. He died February 19, 1760 aged 54 years and eleven months.

CAPTAIN JEREMIAH FITCH

Ancestor of the Coventry, Columbia, Andover, Willimat and Bolton, Connecticut, Fitch families. He settled at Lebanon where lands were granted him soon after his marriage. He lived there until 1703, when he moved and settled on lands now included in South Coventry. This home was still in possession of his descendants in 1886. It was a beautiful and excellent farm near the river and included a large slice of the Williamantic meadows. He was a noted land surveyor and surveyed much of the towns of Lebanon, Coventry and some of Windham. In October, 1708, he was commissioned Captain of the second company of militia in Lebanon. In 1723, he was chosen selectman of the town of Coventry and held this position for 6 years, the last time was 1735. He represented the town in the General Assembly during ten sessions, 1725-1734, and was esteemed by his contemporaries. He lived to be 65. Married Ruth Gifford of Norwich. Ruth Gifford survived him and was living in 1756.

m.

ch. 1707/8

1. Lietutenant Jeremiah
2. Lucy (twins) born in Lebanon, Connecticut.
3. Ruth, m. Daniel Whitmore of Coventry, Connecticut.
4. Hannah, m. Humphrey Davenport of Coventry 6/9/1726

CAPTAIN JEREMIAH FITCH (Continued)

5. Cap't Abner, born in Lebanon.
6. Gideon, probably born in Coventry.
7. Elisha, born in Coventry, executor of father's will.
8. James, born in Coventry.
9. Joseph, born in Coventry.
10. Stephen, born in Coventry. m. Eleanor Strong, January 24, 1837 and probably moved to Willimantic. (This date must be 1737, although it is 1837 in the book.)

REV. JABEZ FITCH

- b. April 1672

Graduated at Harvard in 1694. After his father became disabled by paralysis, he was invited to occupy the pulpit with a view to settlement. After preaching in Norwich about a year, he declined the call and was subsequently elected a Tutor and Fellow of Harvard and in 1703 was ordained at Ipswich, Mass., as a colleague of Rev. John Rogers. He afterwards removed to Portsmouth, N.H. where he was installed about 1725. Elizabeth Appleton of Ipswich.

- m. July 25, 1704
- c. August 16, 1705
- August 18, 1709
- June 19, 1712
- November 15, 1715
- July 19, 1718
- October 3, 1721
- March 24, 1724

1. Elizabeth
2. John, died Oct. 26, 1736
3. James died January 2, 1721/2
4. Margaret
5. Anne
6. James
7. Mary, m. Francis Cabot

CAP'T NATHANIEL FITCH

- b. October 1679
- d. May 4, 1759
- m. December 10, 1701

He was one of the earliest settlers of Lebanon, Connecticut, where he owned a grist mill and a fulling machine. Died at the age of 79 years. Married Ann Abel, daughter of Joshua Abel of Norwich. She died at the age of 47 years, July 3, 1721.

- c. November 1702
February 13, 1704
March 29, 1705
February 10, 1708
October 15, 1709
January 7, 1712
May 14, 1714
February 3, 1717
May 26, 1718
October 1720
November 22, 1722
June 17, 1725

1. Anne
2. Joshua
3. Latham
4. Nehemiah
5. James
6. John, settled at Lebanon, Connecticut.
7. Nathaniel
8. Mehitable
9. Elizabeth m. ----- Bissell.
10. Rachel
11. Abel
12. Caleb

- m. September 17, 1729
c. October 4, 1730
March 11, 1732
May 10, 1734

2. Mindwell Tisdale
13. Jabez d. Nov. 14, 1730
14. Ezekiel living in 1755
15. Isaac. Was joint executor with his mother of his father's will.

JOSEPH FITCH

- b. November 1681 He settled at Stonington, Connecticut, but after his second marriage moved to Lebanon, Connecticut where he spent the remainder of his life. He appears to have been a man of wealth.
- m.
- c.
- b. January 24, 1704 1. Sarah Mason who died before 1721.
 - 1. Judith, born at Stonington, Connecticut.
 - 2. Sarah, in Stonington, Connecticut.
 - 3. Mason, graduated from Yale 1729; Died 3/10/1734.
 - 4. Cap't Joseph who married Zervia Hyde of Lebanon, Connecticut. Died leaving no children.
- September 11, 1708
- February 11, 1711
- m. December 29, 1721 2. Ann, eldest daughter of Rev. Samuel Whiting of Windham, Connecticut. She died September 18, 1778.
- c. January 16, 1724 5. Samuel at Lebanon, Connecticut. Graduated from Yale 1742; was a lawyer in Boston. M. Elizabeth Lloyd. Was an Attorney General in Massachusetts. Was a Royalist during the Revolution. Died in London, England in 1784.
- August 29, 1726 6. Col. Eleazer, graduated from Yale. Settled in Windham, Connecticut. Was High Sheriff and a Royalist during the Revolution.
- November 7, 1728 7. Cap't Azel
- May 17, 1734 8. Lt. Ichabod.
- July 12, 1737 9. Ann
- June 11, 1739 10. Thomas, who died Jan. 2, 1747.

DEACON ELEAZER FITCH

- b. May 14, 1683
- d. about 1747
- m. Martha Brown, his first cousin. She was the daughter of Cap't John and Anne Mason Brown of Swanzey, Massachusetts. He settled in Lebanon where he was a deacon. His wife survived him to whom he left his property. There were no children.

CAP'T JOHN FITCH II

- b. March 18, 1705 Son of Cap't John Fitch I — grandson of Reverend James Fitch.
- d. February 19, 1760 Aged 54 years and eleven months.
- m. 1731 His second cousin and daughter of Ebenezer Fitch, granddaughter of Major James Fitch, Alice Fitch.
- c. July 14, 1732 1. John Fitch III
- October 7, 1734 2. Alice
- November 30, 1736 3. Ebenezer, m. Chloe Kingsbury, May 4, 1760
- April 9, 1739 4. Cap't James, m. Anne Hulburt
- June 9, 1741 5. Miriam
- October 4, 1743 6. Elizabeth
- January 8, 1746 7. Rev. Elijah, Died 1788.
- March 2, 1748 8. Jabez
- March 26, 1753 9. Lucy
- 10. Eunice.

THE FITCH FAMILY

Sir Thomas Fitch, son of Thomas, was born in 1562. I have the line back to 1294 to John Fitch who was living in Fitch Castle in the Parish of Widdington in the northwest part of Essex at that time.

The name has been written in those days: Ffytch, Fytch, Fytche and Ffytche.

The family came from Germany about 530 AD.

Sir Thomas Fitch was created a baronet by Patent # 905. History speaks of him as a judge of distinction and he was a personal friend of Blackstone, called the father of English Law. I can't locate the date of the patent; it was around 1200 AD (See records in the Herald's office, London, England.) Sir Thomas Fitch, born 1590, died 1632, married Anna Reeve, August 16, 1611. Five sons and a widowed mother came to America, landing in Boston, later settled in Connecticut in 1634 — some historians say 1638.

His sons: Thomas of Norwalk, Governor of Connecticut 1754-1766
 Reverend James
 Samuel of Hartford, schoolteacher
 Joseph of Windsor; he is the grandfather of John Fitch, inventor of
 the steamboat.
 John of Windsor

- I. Reverend James Fitch, born in Bocking, England, County Essex, December 24, 1622; died in Norwich, Connecticut. His church still stands there. He first married Abigail Whitfield, on October 1648. She died on September 9, 1659. In October, 1664 he married Priscilla Mason, daughter of Captain John Mason. (See early history of Norwich, Connecticut.) I have a photo copy of Reverend James and Major James from that.)

Major James Fitch, born in Saybrook, Connecticut, August 2, 1649. He died at Canterbury, Connecticut, November 10, 1727. Married first Elizabeth Mason, youngest daughter of Major John Mason. She died October 8, 1678. Second, he married on May 8, 1687, Alice, eldest daughter of Major Wm. F. Bradford and grand daughter of Governor Bradford. She was the widow of Reverend William Adams of Dedham, Massachusetts.

- II. Captain John Fitch born January 1667-8, married Elizabeth Waterman, July 10, 1695. He died May 24, 1743. Elizabeth died January 25, 1761.
- III. John, son of Captain John, born March 18, 1704-5. Married Alice Fitch on June 25, 1731. Alice was born January 30, 1713. John was a cousin of her father. She was the daughter of Ebenezer Fitch, born January 10, 1689-90 who settled in Windsor, Conn. He married Bridget Brown who afterward married John Perry of Ashford, Conn.
- IV. John Fitch, Jr., eldest son of Captain John and Alice (Fitch) Fitch, and grandson of Captain John Fitch and Elizabeth Waterman was born in Windham, July 14, 1732. He graduated from Yale and in November 1753, he married Mercy Lathrop. He died in 1755 at the age of twenty-three years, leaving a daughter Alice born January 1, 1755 and a posthumous son John born January 11, 1756 at Canturbury, Connecticut.
 (Reference Yale College Biography - - - class of 1753)

- V. John Fitch was born January 11, 1756 at Canterbury, Connecticut. There is no authentic record of his wife's name or marriage; tradition says he married twice. The Hartford, Connecticut records tell of the appointment of John Fitch of Canterbury, on May 25, 1777 to Lieutenant Commissary Department of the Connecticut State troops. He assigned his title to a grant of land, now the old homestead, to his two sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, who were half-brothers. The assignment is on file at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania State Capitol and signed by a mark; he could not write. The above is important for reference and is indisputable. This is John Fitch, father of Gideon and Nathaniel. Also note that his grandmother was Alice Fitch. See her line following. Mayflower descendants.

Children of Alice and John Fitch II

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. John III | born July 14, 1732 |
| 2. Alice | Oct. 7, 1734 |
| 3. Ebenezer | Nov.30, 1736 |
| 4. Cap't James | Apr. 9, 1739 |
| 5. Miriam | June 9, 1741 |
| 6. Elizabeth | Oct. 4, 1743 |
| 7. Rev. Elijah | Jan. 8, 1746 |
| 8. Jabez | Mar. 2, 1748 |
| 9. Lucy | Mar. 26, 1753 |
| 10. Eunice | |

This grant was given Connecticut settlers and stockholders of the Connecticut Company after they had been evicted from their original lands in Wyoming Valley after a civil war of about twenty years duration. (See early history (colonial) of the Pennamite Wars.) By an act of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1799, known as the Pennamite Act, and equal amount of land north of the Lackawanna River was granted to the disposed holders. This land was not nearly so good, and it was outside the hard coal belt. This, notwithstanding the king of England's grant to the Connecticut Company, is dated fourteen years before the grant by the king to William Penn. John Fitch was so put out that he refused to ever live on the land given to him. Giving it to his sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, he went back to Connecticut and died there in 1815. (See early history of Wyoming Valley.) There was much litigation over this title. It was tried once in New Jersey. Judge Jenkins and other leading lawyers of that day were on hand and proved that their grant ante-dated Penn's grant by fourteen years. They showed their deed from the Iriquois Indians whereby they paid them a certain number of fish hooks, beads and red flannel. (This so called Albany deed is in the museum at Philadelphia. An old Indian Chief signed it by a mark in the sheepskin, having dipped his whole hand in ink and placed it on the deed.) After all this was proven, the attorney for the Quakers got up and said that the king gave you the land first but he gave it to us last. Therefore it is ours, for according to English law at that time, the king alone had the right to change his mind - - - and the court or commission so heed.

- VI. Nathaniel Fitch was born in 1781, Canterbury, Connecticut (Windham) and died at Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, on September 14, 1839. He was buried in the Fitch Cemetery on the old homestead there. His wife was Sarah Keeler. They were married on August 29, 1801 in Falls Township and lived all their lives on the old homestead there.

Sarah Keeler was born in Ridgefield, Connecticut, June 26, 1785. She was the daughter of Paul Keeler, Jr. who was born April 9, 1756 and Sarah Burt Cornwall. They were married in Ridgefield, Connecticut on February 7, 1775. Paul Keeler, Jr. was a trumpeter in the Revolutionary Army in Sheldon's Light Horse Brigade from the state of Connecticut. His father was Paul Keeler, Sr. was born in 1720 and was the son of Joseph Keeler born in 1683. Joseph was the son of Ralph Keeler who was born in England in 1613 and came to Hartford, Connecticut in 1640. His will is on file at Fairfield, Connecticut, dated August 20, 1672. (This is your record and reference if you care to enter the DAR.)

- VII. Nathaniel Fitch, Jr. was born July 9, 1806 at Tunkhannock Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania. He was "bound out" for six years to learn the blacksmith trade and gunsmith's to a party in Easton, Pennsylvania by his father. (Easton was about 100 miles from his home.) He came home, (said to have run away) in about eight months, but he had the trade. He opened a shop on the old homestead in partnership with his brother Giles. After Giles learned the trade, Nat, as he was called, said there wasn't enough work for two, so he sold and went west alone through the woods, his only baggage being his rifle, hatchet, and a sack of salt. Giles visited him in Fort Wayne. The story of Nathaniel's courtship and marriage is a good one. On June 4, 1840, Nathaniel married Sarah Elizabeth DeLong, who was born May 29, 1818 at Dayton, Miami County, Ohio.

DESCENDANTS OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD

GOVERNOR WILLIAM BRADFORD

- Baptized March 19, 1589/90 at Austerfield, Yorkshire County.
He died May 19, 1657 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- d. May 19, 1657
- m. December 9, 1613
1. Dorothea May, at Amsterdam, Holland. She was born March 19, 1596 in Wisbach, Cambridge County. Died by accidental drowning December 9, 1620 at Cape Cod.
 2. Alice Carpenter, baptized August 3, 1590 at Wrentham Somersetshire, England. She was married shortly after the arrival of the "Ann" in July 1623. Died March 26, 1670 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

MAJOR WILLIAM BRADFORD

- Son of Governor Bradford.
At Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- b. June 17, 1624
- d. February 20, 1703/4
- m. 1650
- Alice Richards about 1650 (close to April 23, 1650). She was born June 16, 1617 at Weymouth, Massachusetts. Had five children. Alice died December 12, 1671 at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

ALICE BRADFORD

- Daughter of Major William Bradford and Alice Richards.
At Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- b. 1659
- d. March 10, 1745
- m. March 28, 1680
1. Reverend Williams Adams. He died August 17, 1685 at Dedham, Massachusetts.
 2. Major James Fitch, born August 2, 1647/9 at Saybrook, Connecticut. Died November 10, 1727 at Canterbury, Connecticut.

EBENEZER FITCH

- Son of Alice Bradford and Major James Fitch.
At Norwich, Connecticut.
- b. January 10, 1689
- d. November 20, 1724
- m. September 18, 1712
- At Windsor, Connecticut.
- Bridget Brown at Canterbury, Connecticut.

ALICE FITCH

- Daughter of Ebenezer Fitch and Bridget Brown.
- b. January 30, 1713
- d. 1796
- m. January 25, 1730/1
- Lt. John Fitch, son of Cap't John Fitch and Elizabeth Waterman and Reverend James Fitch's grandson. Lt. John Fitch, born March 18, 1705, died February 19, 1760.

JOHN FITCH

- Son of Alice and Lt. John Fitch
At Windham, Connecticut.
- b. July 14, 1732
- d. June 26, 1755
- m. November 7, 1753
- At Canterbury, Connecticut.
- Mercy Lathrop, who was born October 1, 1736 at Tolland, Connecticut.

JOHN FITCH

b. January 11, 1756
d. 1816
m.

At Canterbury, Connecticut (posthumous son)
At Ridgefield, Connecticut.
Second wife named Mary - - - - .

NATHANIEL FITCH

b. February 12, 1781
d. September 14, 1839
m. August 29, 1801

Son of John Fitch.
At Canterbury, Connecticut (Windham)
At Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania.
Sarah Keeler. She was born in Ridgefield, Connecticut,
June 28, 1785 and died February 6, 1856. Is buried in
Fitch's Cemetery, Falls Township, Pennsylvania.

NATHANIEL FITCH

b. July 9, 1806
d. January 1, 1877
m. June 4, 1840

Son of Nathaniel and Sarah Keeler Fitch.
At Tunkhannock, Falls Township, Wyoming County,
Pennsylvania.
Buried in Perry Cemetery near Hometown, Indiana.
Sarah Elizabeth DeLong. She was born May 29, 1818 and
died September 2, 1908 and is buried in Perry Cemetery,
near Hometown, Indiana.

Compiled by Ruth Gardiner (Mrs. Francis Hall) under the Auspices of the
Bradford Family Compact, Volume 1, published 1951

This family history was published about 1970 and since that time it has been discovered that a part of it is not true. It would appear that the Nathaniel Fitch that came to Indiana in the 1830's and settled in Perry Township, Allen County, IN was probably not from the Rev. James Fitch family. If he was, it is not in the way that was outlined in this book.

Briefly, this book outlines the genealogy as follows:

Rev. James Fitch (1622-1703) and Priscilla Mason
Capt. John Fitch (1667-1743) and Elizabeth Waterman
Capt. John Fitch II (1705-1760) and Alice Fitch
John Fitch III (1732-1755) and Mercy Lathrop
John Fitch IV (1756-) and

This genealogy is correct, but John Fitch IV did not come to settle in Pennsylvania as was supposed. He is buried in Windham, CT and died in 1807. Our "John Fitch" was still in Pennsylvania in the 1810 census. Also the John Fitch of Windham married Clarissa Wales and had as children, James, Col. John Jr., Lucius, and Clarissa. Also in Windham Cemetery you will find the gravestones of John Fitch and Clarissa Wales Fitch. Photos of the stones with inscriptions can be found in a book by John Townsend Fitch of Cambridge, MA called "Descendants of Rev. James Fitch, the First Five Generations". He has also written two other books on the Fitch family. One is about the Fitch Family in England, and the other is the story of "Puritan in the Wilderness" all about Rev. James Fitch. He has done a very in depth research on the subject. His books are in the Fort Wayne Library if any would like to see them. However, they are in the genealogy department and cannot be taken out. They are also for sale if anyone is interested in them. Kalmia Publishers of MA.

At the present time we are still researching an alternate genealogy for the Allen County Nathaniel Fitch family. From what we have found, it is likely that Nathaniel was descended from Thomas Fitch, a brother of Rev. James Fitch. Thomas Fitch helped to found the city of Norwalk, CT and was great, great grandfather of the Governor Thomas Fitch of CT. The line we are researching is as follows and still need to find further proofs and documentation before printing it or making changes in this book:

Thomas Fitch (1612-1704) and Anne Stacey or Stacie
John Fitch (1633-) and Rebecca Lindall
Nathaniel Fitch (1682-1743) and _____
John Fitch (-1748) and prob. Elizabeth Beers
John Fitch () and poss. Elizabeth Lockwood
and Mary as wife 2

In the will of Elizabeth (Beers) Fitch Elis we find that John is her son and that she has grandchildren by the names of John Fitch, Junr., Gideon Fitch, and Susannah Fitch. Will of 1777. Nathaniel the father of our Indiana Nathaniel was born in 1782 so not named in the will. But we believe John, son of Eliz. came to Pa 1788.

The John Fitch we find in Pennsylvania and who was the grandfather to our Indiana Nathaniel Fitch, had sons Gideon and Nathaniel who were named in land contracts calling John Fitch their father. It is likely that it is John Fitch, son of Elizabeth Beers and her first husband, John Fitch that came to Pennsylvania.

There are a couple other possibilities, but this seems to be the most promising one at this time. John Fitch came to Pennsylvania and his neighbors were from the Norwalk area.

If you have any questions on this, please contact

Betty Fitch (Mrs. Warren J. Fitch)
219-637-6401

Until the time when we can be as sure as possible, we will not be changing any of the books that have been distributed, but am writing this so no one else will be led to accept a false genealogy by the reading of this book. The Indiana Fitch family will have a family reunion in the year 1999 and hope to be able to make a decision by that time about what changes must be made.

Betty Fitch

DESCENDANTS OF NATHANIEL AND SARAH KEELER FITCH

NAME	BORN	DIED	MARRIED
1. SEYMOUR	SEPT. 3, 1802	JULY 19, 1835	
2. GILES	JULY 9, 1804	OCT. 14, 1890	EMILY GOOD
3. NATHANIEL	JULY 9, 1806	JAN. 1, 1877	SARAH ELIZABETH DELONG
4. MORGAN	MAR. 8, 1809	DEC. 14, 1888	MARY ANN WILLIAMS
5. SPENCER	JULY 21, 1811	OCT. 4, 1895	ELIZABETH SICKLER
6. ABIGAIL	MAR. 2, 1814	MAR. 18, 1851	JACOB SICKLER
7. JOHN	APR. 16, 1816	NOV. 26, 1841	
8. PERRY	JULY 7, 1818	JULY 23, 1838	
9. SARAH	APR. 6, 1821	JAN. 8, 1890	JOHN SICKLER
10. NANCY	AUG. 4, 1823	JULY 15, 1875	ELIJA JENKINS (1.) NEWMAN MILLER (2.)
11. ALLEN	FEB. 28, 1826	SEPT. 28, 1855	LYDIA BEEMER
12. MARY (POLLY)	JUNE 26, 1828		SANFORD SIGLAX (1.) CHRISTIAN DEUBLER (2.)

DESCENDANTS OF NATHANIEL AND SARAH ELIZABETH DELONG FITCH

1. PERRY	JAN. 6, 1842	APR. 14, 1900	SARAH ELIZABETH GLOYD
2. MATHIAS	JAN. 16, 1843	DEC. 10, 1923	FRANCIS VANDOLAH
3. MARY JANE	OCT. 15, 1844	MAR. 17, 1925	LEVI BEERS
4. CHARLES	MAR. 29, 1846	AUG. 21, 1925	LOUANN CLUB
5. NANCY	MAR. 16, 1848	SEPT. 1, 1848	
6. AMOS	JUNE 11, 1849	NOV. 9, 1935	NANCY ELIZABETH HUNTER
7. FITELIA &	APR. 10, 1851	JAN. 8, 1935	JEROME DORSEY GLOYD
8. FRANCELIA	APR. 10, 1851	DEC. 29, 1937	CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR
9. HARVEY	JULY 15, 1853	SEPT. 13, 1948	PERMELIA ETTA PARKER
10. SARAH ELIZABETH	MAR. 29, 1855	AUG. 4, 1958	IRVIN FRANKLIN STRATTON
11. ALLEN	FEB. 21, 1857	DEC. 19, 1952	EMMA LEWILLIAN GREEN
12. IDA ALICE	OCT. 25, 1858	DEC. 14, 1945	MELVILLE ARTHUR MASON
13. EMELINE	FEB. 1, 1861	AUG. 28, 1949	ALLEN MONROE HARTZELL
14. JOHN EDWARD	FEB. 14, 1864	MAY 19, 1870	
15. DAVID NATHANIEL	FEB. 13, 1865	APRIL 4, 1950	EMMA BELLE STIRLEN



PERRY FITCH FAMILY

FRONT ROW

Claude Fitch, Pearl Fitch, Fred Fitch and Victor Fitch, Grandchildren.

SECOND ROW

Etta Fitch, Oliver's wife holding Mable Fitch

Perry Fitch and Wife Sarah Elizabeth Gloyd Fitch

Lucinda Fitch, Wife of William Fitch

Anne Fitch, Wife of Bert C. Fitch holding Ivan Fitch

THIRD ROW

Oliver Fitch, Kelsey Fitch, George Fitch, William Fitch, Bert C. Fitch and Frank Fitch

This Picture was taken in 1899 at the Perry Fitch Home in Butler Township, DeKalb County, Ind.

.....

PERRY FITCH, the eldest son of Nathaniel Fitch and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong married Sarah, daughter of George and Magdalena Gloyd and reared eight of their twelve children.

Mr. Fitch was twelve years a Justice of the Peace. Their Home was in Butler Township, DeKalb County, Indiana.

PERRY FITCH B. JAN. 6, 1842 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. APRIL 14, 1900. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
MAY 12, 1864 TO SARAH ELIZABETH GLOYD B. APRIL 9, 1844 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP,
ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. JUNE 1, 1920. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 11

JAMES L. FITCH B. MAY 16, 1865 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. DEC. 11, 1865.

LEWIS E. FITCH B. NOV. 18, 1866 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. SEPT. 21, 1867.

WILLIAM SEYMOUR FITCH B. SEPT. 3, 1868 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,
IND. D. JULY 5, 1933. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
M. ON MARCH 22, 1891 TO LUCINDA VICTORIA DEPOTTY B. FEB. 6, 1872 IN
IONA COUNTY, MICH. D. DEC. 4, 1950. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY,
ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 4

VICTOR WARD FITCH B. FEB. 12, 1893 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
NOV. 29, 1919 TO ESTHER DORIS GALLMEYER B. MAY 21, 1896 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 2

DORIS VIRGINIA FITCH B. FEB. 25, 1922 IN MAPLEWOOD, N.J. M. ON
DEC. 25, 1943 TO JOHN STARKWEATHER PENDLETON, JR. B. AUG. 30,
1920 AT WATERBURY, CONN. ISSUE 5

JOHN STARKWEATHER PENDLETON, III, B. AUG. 30, 1945 AT
NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

MICHELE LEE PENDLETON B. AUG. 27, 1949 IN BURLINGTON,
VT. M. ON JUNE 26, 1971 TO JOSEPH WOODBURY LAWRENCE.

VICTOR FITCH PENDLETON B. SEPT. 7, 1950 IN BURLINGTON, VT.

CRAIG ALDRICH PENDLETON B. AUG. 21, 1952 IN BURLINGTON, VT.

BRIAN PARKS PENDLETON B. APRIL 15, 1959.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLYN FRANCIS FITCH B. JUNE 15, 1924 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON JUNE 26, 1948 TO CHARLES FRANCES CAROL, JR. (DIVORCED
JULY 7, 1952)

CAROLYN FRANCIS FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON FEB. 6, 1955 TO
GORDON HUBER EVANS B. DEC. 18, 1918 AT CODROY, NEWFOUNDLAND.

FRED WILSON FITCH B. FEB. 27, 1896 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
NOV. 23, 1917 TO BESSE TIMMERMAN B. JUNE 19, 1897 IN FORT WAYNE,
IND. (DIVORCED) ISSUE 10

ALICE JANE FITCH B. SEPT. 7, 1918 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
APRIL 6, 1941 TO RAYMOND GETTY, JR. B. JULY 3, 1914 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 2

SUSAN ELAINE GETTY B. NOV. 1, 1942 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON MAY 21, 1966 TO ROGER HEAD. ISSUE 1

DAVID ANDREW HEAD B. NOV. 1971 IN YAKIMA, WASH.

MARTHA LOU GETTY B. MAY 27, 1952 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

LUCINDA MAY FITCH B. MARCH 12, 1920 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

BETTY JEAN FITCH B. DEC. 15, 1923 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
MAY 13, 1942 TO FORREST RICHARDS B. JAN. 20, 1919. ISSUE 2

MICHAEL FORREST RICHARDS B. DEC. 6, 1944 IN FORT WAYNE,
IND. M. ON SEPT. 16, 1968 TO RUTH ANN FOX B. JULY 14,
1947 IN WOODBURY, NEW JERSEY.

RANDALL RAY RICHARDS B. FEB. 22, 1955 IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLA

WILLIAM SEYMOUR FITCH II, B. JULY 20, 1925 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

RUTH ANN FITCH B. JULY 27, 1928 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
MAY 5, 1946 TO JOHN SANFORD B. MAY 4, 1925 IN FORT WAYNE,
IND. ISSUE 3

JOHN STEVEN SANFORD B. FEB. 25, 1947 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON APRIL 8, 1966 TO CAROLYN DEANNA DUNCAN B. FEB. 12,

(CONTINUED)

1950 IN BLUEFIELD, W. VIR. ISSUE 3

JOHN EDWARD SANFORD B. JAN. 14, 1967 AT JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

RICHARD DWAYNE SANFORD B. FEB. 17, 1968 AT
JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

TONY RAY SANFORD B. APRIL 22, 1971 AT JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

LINDA MAE SANFORD B. SEPT. 7, 1950 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

JAMES MELVIN SANFORD B. DEC. 14, 1961 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

D. FEB. 18, 1964. B.P. PLEASANT CEMETERY, FT. WAYNE, IND.

MARY LOU FITCH B. JAN. 19, 1930 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JAN. 24, 1948 TO EUGENE CLICK B. NOV. 15, 1925 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ISSUE 3

DIAN CLICK B. MAY 19, 1948 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON

TO BARRY BREWER. ISSUE 1

BRAM LEE BREWER B. DEC. 9, 1968 IN CLAYMOUNT, DELA.

THOMAS EUGENE CLICK B. AUG. 26, 1949 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

CHERYL LYNN CLICK B. FEB. 21, 1954 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

PATRICIA LEE FITCH B. NOV. 22, 1931 NEAR FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON

TO ANTHONY HOLOCHER, JR. B. MAY 9, 1929 IN

FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 4

CATHLEEN JANE HOLOCHER B. MAY 22, 1950 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

M. ON AUG. 29, 1969 TO MARK WINTER B. APRIL 30, 1948.

DEBORAH KAY HOLOCHER B. FEB. 27, 1953 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

TERRANCE THEODORE HOLOCHER B. FEB. 9, 1960 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

WILLIAM ANTHONY HOLOCHER B. JAN. 22, 1963 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

KENNETH FITCH B. JUNE 27, 1933 NEAR FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON

JUNE 1, 1956 TO SHIRLEY ANN DAVIES B. JAN. 10, 1936 AT

MOUNDSVILLE, W. VIR. ISSUE 2

SHARON LEE FITCH B. JULY 31, 1957 IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN SUE FITCH B. MAY 26, 1963 IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

DALE ALLEN FITCH B. JUNE 13, 1935 AT ROANOKE, IND.

JOHN EVAN FITCH B. FEB. 18, 1940 AT ROANOKE, IND. M. ON

Nov. 9, 1963 TO SALLY SUE MENZEL B. AUG. 19, 1942 IN CORUNNA,
IND. ISSUE 2

BRENTEN DORN FITCH B. APRIL 12, 1964 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN FITCH B. JAN. 20, 1969 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

FRED WILSON FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE OCT. 4, 1944 TO JEANNETTE MAY

SMETHERS B. FEB. 12, 1904 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

FRED THOMAS FITCH B. SEPT. 1, 1946 IN DETROIT, MICH. M. TO
PATRICIA GAIL HICKS ON JUNE 10, 1972.

FOREST RANOLD FITCH B. SEPT. 22, 1902 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JUNE 16, 1929 TO VIOLA LA VERNE MAHNENSMITH B. MARCH 31, 1902 IN
OSSIAN, IND. ISSUE 3

LINWOOD RANDALL FITCH B. OCT. 22, 1931 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

M. ON DECEMBER 9, 1961 TO DORIS V. BROCK B. JUNE 10, 1929 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

DONALD WARREN FITCH B. FEB. 28, 1964 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ROSALIE RUTH FITCH B. NOV. 19, 1933 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
AUG. 6, 1955 TO CLARENCE MONTELL DEWITT III, B. FEB. 11, 1933
AT FLORAL PARK, LONG ISLAND, N.Y. ISSUE 2

JANEY LEE DEWITT B. SEPT. 17, 1956 AT FLORAL PARK, LONG
ISLAND, N.Y.

DOUGLAS OWEN DEWITT B. APRIL 29, 1959 IN MILWAUKEE, WISC.

VICTOR KEITH FITCH B. AUG. 30, 1936 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 10, 1961 TO BARBARA JANE LEE B. JULY 12, 1939 IN
CONVERSE, IND. ISSUE 2

KEITH ALAN FITCH B. MAY 24, 1966 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

BRIAN LEE FITCH B. DEC. 22, 1968 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

(CONTINUED)

HILLIS LUCILLE FITCH B. FEB. 14, 1907 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 18, 1935 TO EDWARD EUCKER B. NOV. 21, 1900 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
DIVORCED. SECOND MARRIAGE TO MR. HULA.

OLIVER JASPER FITCH B. AUG. 31, 1871 NEAR NEW ERA, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. JULY 9, 1965. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
NOV. 8, 1897 TO ETTA M. MERRIMAN B. AUG. 19, 1868 AT VALPARAISO, IND.
D. AUG. 22, 1901. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 2
MABLE E. FITCH B. SEPT. 8, 1898 IN DEKALB COUNTY. D. JUNE 24, 1903.
B.P. BERMINGWOOD, WISC.

GLENN FITCH B. JUNE 17, 1901 IN DEKALB COUNTY, IND. D. JULY 19,
1901. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

OLIVER JASPER FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON MARCH 29, 1902 TO RETTA PAULINA
STOKES JENSEN B. NOV. 15, 1870 IN VERNON COUNTY, WISC. D. OCT. 23, 1926.
B.P. ST. JAMES CEMETERY, FULLERSBURG, ILL. ISSUE 4

LOTTIE LOUISE FITCH B. MAY 26, 1905 IN BERMINGWOOD, WISC. D. SEPT. 8,
1971. B.P. AVILLA CEMETERY, AVILLA, IND. M. JUNE 3, 1922 TO DALE
V. KISTLER B. JAN. 17, 1903 IN CROMWELL, IND. ISSUE 3

DOROTHY LOUISE KISTLER B. MARCH 16, 1923 NEAR HUNTERTOWN, IND.
M. ON DEC. 28, 1940 TO TED OWEN B. MARCH 1, 1922 IN NOBLE
COUNTY, IND. D. OCT. 10, 1964. B.P. AVILLA CEMETERY, AVILLA,
IND. ISSUE 5

SHERON ANN OWEN B. JAN. 18, 1943 AT GARRETT, IND. D. JAN. 19,
1943. B.P. AVILLA CEMETERY, AVILLA, IND.

WILLIAM FRANCIS OWEN B. DEC. 25. 1944 AT GARRETT, IND.
M. ON APRIL 4, 1971 TO KIM BONNIE STRAUB B. MAY 26, 1950
AT WOLF LAKE, IND.

SANDRA LEE OWEN B. AUG. 8, 1947 IN GARRETT, IND. M. ON
JULY 23, 1966 TO NED RAGAN B. MAY 26, 1946 IN KENDALLVILLE,
IND.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA SUE OWEN B. JAN. 18, 1950 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
Nov. 2, 1968 TO SHELDON LYNN WRIGHT B. SEPT. 26, 1948 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND.

STANLEY LYNN OWEN B. DEC. 25, 1956 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
RONALD PAUL KISTLER B. DEC. 16, 1926 NEAR LAOTTO, IND. M. ON
DEC. 1, 1951 TO MARTHA JEAN TEDERS B. AUG. 31, 1927 IN DEKALB
COUNTY, IND. D. JAN. 6, 1955. B.P. AVILLA CATHOLIC CEMETERY
RONALD PAUL KISTLER SECOND MARRIAGE ON FEB. 12, 1956 TO
SABINA ELIZABETH BUSCH B. JUNE 29, 1927 IN NOBLE COUNTY, IND.

ISSUE 3

DENISE MARIE KISTLER B. JUNE 23, 1958 AT GARRETT, IND.
RONDA SUE KISTLER B. JUNE 23, 1960 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND.
GORDON PAUL KISTLER B. JUNE 6, 1964 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND.
MARILYN JANE KISTLER B. JAN. 7, 1939 NEAR AVILLA, IND. M. ON
AUG. 17, 1956 TO MAX GAY B. AUG. 16, 1938 IN NOBLE COUNTY,
IND. ISSUE 4

GREGORY ALLEN GAY B. NOV. 1, 1958 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
PAMELA LYNN GAY B. MARCH 6, 1960 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
ROGER WAYNE GAY B. NOV. 18, 1962 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
JEFFREY EUGENE GAY B. JUNE 15, 1966 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
GLENN FRANKLIN FITCH B. SEPT. 12, 1907 AT CASHTON, WISC. M. ON
OCT. 5, 1925 TO GLENETH MARIE SNYDER B. MARCH 8, 1909 AT MANIMORE,
OHIO. DIVORCED.
GLENN FRANKLIN FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON AUG. 17, 1937 TO EILEEN G.
MOSSMAN B. JUNE 12, 1918 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

BERNICE FITCH (ADOPTED). M. ON AUG. 4, 1962 TO ROBERT O.
MC CARTHY B. APRIL 13, 1939 AT SYRACUSE, N.Y. ISSUE 2

DOUGLAS MICHAEL MC CARTHY B. SEPT. 4, 1966 AT WINCHESTER, MASS.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN MATTHEW MCCARTHY B. JULY 10, 1968 AT WINCHESTER, MASS.

ICELE INEZ FITCH B. SEPT. 10, 1909 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. M. TO ELMER HERMAN BURZLOFF OCT. 8, 1906.

CECIL ELBERT FITCH B. SEPT. 10, 1912 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. M. ON NOV. 16, 1935 TO SARAH JOSEPHINE KISTLER B. SEPT. 29, 1910 AT CROMWELL, IND. ISSUE 2

GLENDIA LEE FITCH B. NOV. 25, 1938 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON MAY 11, 1958 TO LARRY EUGENE WALBERRY B. JULY 18, 1938 AT ANGOLA, IND. ISSUE 4

RUSSELL ARDEN WALBERRY B. NOV. 26, 1958 AT ANGOLA, IND.

MARSHALL DENNIS WALBERRY B. NOV. 2, 1959 AT ANGOLA, IND.

TRACY ANN WALBERRY B. JULY 31, 1961 AT ANGOLA, IND.

ANGELA DARLENE WALBERRY B. JAN. 1, 1963 AT HICKSVILLE, OHIO.

RICHARD CECIL FITCH B. APRIL 27, 1946 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND. M. ON AUG. 27, 1966 TO MARIE DONETTE BROWN B. NOV. 13, 1945 AT FORT BRAGG, N. CAR. ISSUE 3

ROBIN LEA FITCH B. JAN. 21, 1968 AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

TAMARA LYNN FITCH B. DEC. 11, 1969 AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

TIMOTHY RICHARD FITCH B. JULY 8, 1971 AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

GEORGE FITCH B. OCT. 14, 1872 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. D. MAY 19, 1942. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

BERT CENTENNIAL FITCH B. JULY 4, 1876 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. D. MAY 21, 1964. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. M. ON MARCH 16, 1898 TO ANISE MARIA SCHOPF B. MARCH 22, 1875 AT GARRETT, IND. D. DEC. 28, 1930. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 4

IVAN ELIAS FITCH B. MARCH 5, 1899 IN GARRETT, IND. M. ON JULY 18, 1928 TO NINA DAVIS B. OCT. 9, 1895 AT MARION, IND.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR FILMORE FITCH B. JULY 10, 1903 AT GARRETT, IND. D. JAN. 3, 1951. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND. CREMATION. M. ON NOV. 1, 1924 TO MAURINE LITTLE B. JULY 23, 1902 AT GARRETT, IND. ISSUE 2

OSCAR ALAN FITCH B. AUG. 18, 1925 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON APRIL 30, 1949 TO MATTIE JOAN MAIN B. DEC. 2, 1928 AT NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA

KENNETH DUANE FITCH B. NOV. 7, 1927 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON OCT. 29, 1949 TO WILMA LOYOLA SMITH B. MAY 24, 1927 AT GARRETT, IND. DIVORCED 1961. ISSUE 2

SUE ANN FITCH B. FEB. 13, 1952 AT GARRETT, IND.

SANDRA JEAN FITCH B. OCT. 11, 1953 AT GARRETT, IND.

THELMA ANISE FITCH B. MARCH 21, 1905 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON AUG. 14, 1930 TO RALPH W. GRIEST B. DEC. 16, 1898 NEAR LAFAYETTE, IND.

D. JAN. 27, 1960. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

FLORETTA MAY FITCH B. DEC. 23, 1906 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON AUG. 15, 1928 TO GEORGE W. WYATT B. SEPT. 20, 1905 NEAR AUBURN, IND. ISSUE 1

GEORGE WILLIAM WYATT B. AUG. 7, 1937 AT MONTPELIER, OHIO.

D. APRIL 12, 1953. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

KELSEY DAVID FITCH B. FEB. 6, 1878 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,

IND. D. OCT. 20, 1946. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON OCT. 20, 1903 TO ARTIE OTTO B. JAN. 21, 1883 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP,

ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. AUG. 25, 1944. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 4

ERMA MAY FITCH B. OCT. 26, 1904 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. D. FEB. 15, 1960.

B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON JUNE 16, 1925 TO MARION JAMES MORE B. MAY 22, 1902 AT HUNTINGTON, IND.

STEVEN DAVID MORE B. JULY 1, 1944 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. (ADOPTED)

(CONTINUED)

M. ON SEPT. 26, 1964 TO EMMALEAN DAY B. JULY 10, 1946 AT
CRAMONA, KY. ISSUE 1

TRAVIS JAMES MORE B. MARCH 24, 1947 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
VERMA FAY FITCH B. OCT. 26, 1904 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON AUG. 30,
1927 TO BURL LEROY SMITH B. AUG. 16, 1903 AT CLAYPOOL, IND. D. MAY 3,
1970. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

KENNETH FITCH SMITH B. AUG. 14, 1931 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
AUG. 7, 1965 TO MARILYN ELAINE RODEY B. MAY 14, 1939 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

TERESA LYNN SMITH B. DEC. 10, 1968 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
EUGENE FITCH B. JAN. 27, 1912 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. D. JAN. 27, 1912.
B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

RALPH DAVID FITCH B. JAN. 31, 1914 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

FRANK EDGAR FITCH B. SEPT. 19, 1880 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. JULY 25, 1942. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
NOV. 28, 1907 TO CARRIE DELONG B. JAN. 28, 1887 AT HICKSVILLE, OHIO.
D. MARCH 23, 1966. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 1

FRANCIS JOSEPHINE FITCH B. APRIL 2, 1911 NEAR ST. JOE, IND.

CLAUDE PERRY FITCH B. OCT. 17, 1885 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. MARCH 24, 1959. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND. M. OCT. 11,
1911 TO EDITH MABEL GELLER B. MAY 27, 1887 NEAR FORT WAYNE, IND. D. JULY,
1946. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND.

CLAUDE PERRY FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE, AUG. 3, 1947 TO MRS. DOTTIE M.

TIMBERLIN B. SEPT. 30, 1887 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

MAUDE FITCH B. OCT. 17, 1885 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. OCT., 1885.

PEARL MADORA FITCH B. JAN. 12, 1888 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,
IND. M. ON SEPT. 4, 1912 TO GODFREY J. GLADBACH B. NOV. 27, 1885 IN

(CONTINUED)

FORT WAYNE, IND. D. JULY 16, 1953. B.P. COVINGTON GARDENS, FORT
WAYNE, IND.

JOAN GLADBACH (ADOPTED) B. JAN. 24, 1924 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON NOV. 16, 1945 TO DONALD E. EWING B. JAN. 24, 1919 IN
MICHIGAN. ISSUE 1

NED WILLIAM EWING B. OCT. 9, 1949 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
MARCH 12, 1971 TO CATHY TELSCHOW B. APRIL 22, 1951.



Mathias Fitch

1-16-1843 to 12-10-1923

married 12-1-1867



Frances Vandolah

2-19-1843 to 5-26-1923

MATHIAS FITCH was the second son of Nathaniel Fitch and Sarah DeLong. He was born January 16, 1843, in a log cabin near where Nathaniel's large new house was soon to be built. On December 1, 1867, he was united in marriage with Frances, daughter of James and Rebecca Vandolah, also of Perry Township. Frances Vandolah was born February 19, 1843, in Perry Township. They were blessed with nine children, six of which grew to adulthood, Schuyler, John, Walter, Bessie, Altha, and Beatrice.

Mathias farmed 240 acres in Perry Township and made a specialty of raising sheep. He also owned farmland in Iowa. He ran the water-powered saw mill that was on his farm as his father, Nathaniel, had done before him. The saw mill was a one-story building 60 x 20 ft. Mathias took over the operation of the mill about 1870 and installed a feed-grinder. He continued the operation of the mill until 1908 when it was abandoned. This mill was in continuous operation for 68 years.

Mathias was a member of the "Regulators", an organization formed to rid the country of outlaws. David Fitch, his brother, and Jacob Kell were also members of this courageous organization.

Mathias died December 10, 1923, and is buried in the Perry Cemetery near Huntertown, Indiana. Frances was buried beside her husband.

MATHIAS FITCH B. JAN. 16, 1843 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. DEC. 10, 1923. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
DEC. 1, 1867 TO FRANCES VANDOLAH B. FEB. 19, 1843 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND. D. MAY 26, 1923. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. ISSUE 9

LUCY FITCH B. SEPT. 15, 1868 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. SEPT. 27, 1868. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

SCHUYLER FITCH B. DEC. 24, 1869 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. APRIL 17, 1952 IN SEATTLE, WASH. M. ON JAN. 5, 1893 TO LEAH L.

PEPPLE B. APRIL 3, 1871 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

DECEASED. ISSUE 3

ROWENE FITCH B. MARCH 3, 1894 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON MARCH 12, 1913 TO CARL HUBERT HARTNETT B. MAY 5, 1892 AT

SEATTLE, WASH. DIVORCED.

HUBERT FITCH HARTNETT B. FEB. 5, 1914 IN PORTLAND, ORE. M. ON

MARCH 27, 1943 TO HAZEL CHRISTINE OIE B. MARCH 5, 1916 AT

KENT, WASH. ISSUE 2

JAMES HUGH HARTNETT B. DEC. 20, 1946 AT SEATTLE, WASH.

M. ON AUG. 6, 1971 TO SANDRA LEE GAUDRAUTT B. DEC. 30,

1948 IN BOSTON, MASS.

JULIA MYRTLE HARTNETT B. AUG. 7, 1949 AT SEATTLE, WASH.

ROWENE FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON MARCH 30, 1928 TO CLARENCE THAYER

BUNKER B. MARCH 15, 1894 AT ST. PAUL, MINN.

ROBERT FITCH B. OCT. 30, 1898 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,

IND. D. NOV. 31, 1954. M. ON JUNE 21, 1923 TO STELLA BENSON

B. NOV. 19, 1894 AT PENDLETON, ORE. ISSUE 2

BETTE JANE FITCH B. MARCH 5, 1924 AT SEATTLE, WASH. M. ON

MARCH 26, 1943 TO ALBERT K. LYON. ISSUE 1

KATHY IRENE LYON

(CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA ROWENA FITCH B. DEC. 31, 1927 AT SEATTLE, WASH.

D. JUNE 13, 1930.

MERLIN FITCH B. DEC. 31, 1901 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,
IND. M. ON AUG. 28, 1927 TO EUNICE LUCILE BALCH B. SEPT. 20,
1908 AT WENATCHEE, WASH. ISSUE 2

ROBERT ELLIOT FITCH B. OCT. 17, 1928 AT WENATCHEE, WASH.

M. ON JUNE 20, 1954 TO VALERIE BALSAMO B. MARCH 27, 1927 AT
KEMPSTEAD, LONG ISLAND, N.Y. ISSUE 2

JOHN ROBERT FITCH B. FEB. 21, 1956 IN OAKLAND, CAL.

LINELLE FITCH B. FEB. 3, 1959 IN SEATTLE, WASH.

JOHN SCHUYLER FITCH B. JUNE 6, 1934 AT WENATCHEE, WASH. M. ON
AUG. 18, 1957 TO BILLIE MARIE ROCHELLE B. JULY 24, 1936 AT
PORTLAND, ORE. ISSUE 2

JIMMIE ALLEN FITCH B. DEC. 20, 1960 AT SEATTLE, WASH.

CHERYL ANN FITCH B. OCT. 19, 1962 AT SEATTLE, WASH.

JOHN BYRON FITCH B. JUNE 23, 1872 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
D. FEB. 20, 1947. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY. M. ON MARCH 17, 1898 TO
ROSA BELLE HOLLOPETER B. MAY 29, 1874 IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND. D. JAN. 15, 1953. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB
COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 3

GRACE FITCH B. MARCH 29, 1899 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
D. JUNE 8, 1970. B.P. CEMETERY AT MERRIAM IN NOBLE COUNTY, IND.
M. ON JUNE 30, 1926 TO CHARLES CAPLE B. DEC. 2, 1895 AT CULVER, IND.
ISSUE 2

JOHN ALFRED CAPLE B. OCT. 10, 1927 AT AUBURN, IND. M. ON
AUG. 25, 1951 TO BARBARA HORN B. DEC. 15, 1927 AT PENNVILLE,
JAY COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 2

JONI RENEE CAPLE B. NOV. 20, 1953 IN LAGRANGE, IND.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

MARRIAGES

THOMAS EUGENE CLICK TO JUDY ELAINE ROWELL, AUGUST 26, 1971.
DEBORAH KAY HOLOCHER TO MICHAEL STEPHEN DAWSON, DECEMBER 1974.
SUE ANN FITCH (DIVORCED 1977) TO GARY D. SHAVER, DECEMBER 13, 1974.
CRAIG PENDLETON TO LILIA PIOL, DECEMBER 10, 1977.
MARTHA LOU GETTY TO MICHAEL LAWRENCE
JANEY LEE DEWITT TO SCOTT D. BELANGER, FEBRUARY 13, 1977.
CHERYL LYNN CLICK TO ROBERT HAMILTON, JR., JUNE 6, 1980.

BIRTHS

JODI LYNN WRIGHT B. APRIL 6, 1972 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. SHELDON WRIGHT.
RYAN WILLIAM OWEN B. FEBRUARY 28, 1973 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. WM. OWEN.
ERIN MICHELLE FITCH B. JUNE 12, 1973 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. VICTOR FITCH.
SHAWN JASON GAY B. FEBRUARY 8, 1975 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. MAX GAY.
BLAKE DAWSON B. MARCH 15, 1975 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL DAWSON.
FRED MATTHEW FITCH B. JUNE 11, 1975 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. THOMAS FITCH.
CHAD LEE RAGAN B. OCTOBER 1975 ADOPTED BY MR. AND MRS. NED RAGAN.
KIRSTEN ELIZABETH HEAD B. FEBRUARY 16, 1976 TO MR. AND MRS. ROGER HEAD.
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM EWING B. JANUARY 9, 1976 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. NED EWING.
ERIKA ANN LAURENCE B. MARCH 9, 1977 AND KIMBERLY LANGLEY LAURENCE B. APRIL 1,
1979 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH LAURENCE.
MICHAEL FITCH PENDLETON B. APRIL 28, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. CRAIG
PENDLETON.
LAURA JEANETTE FITCH B. DECEMBER 20, 1978 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. THOMAS FITCH.
HOLLY EWING B. DECEMBER 11, 1978 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. NED EWING.
NICOLE DAYLEAN MORE B. MARCH 30, 1974 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. STEVEN MORE.
RENEE CLICK B. SEPTEMBER 4, 1978 AND MICHAEL THOMAS CLICK, B. JANUARY 4, 1980
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. THOMAS E. CLICK.
JOSHUA SETH BELANGER B. APRIL 20, 1980 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. SCOTT D. BELANGER.

DEATHS

JEANETTE SMETHERS FITCH D. JUNE 11, 1972.
BETTY FITCH D. AUGUST 5, 1972.
PEARL FITCH GLADBACH D. JANUARY 14, 1973.
FOREST R. FITCH D. JANUARY 29, 1975.
THELMA GRIEST D. MARCH 16, 1975.

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

DEATHS (CONT'D)

VERMA FITCH D. OCTOBER 15, 1975.
FRANCES FITCH D. DECEMBER 6, 1975.
DOTTIE FITCH D. DECEMBER 9, 1975.
ICEL INEZ BURZLOFF D. JANUARY 1976.
GEORGE W. YATT D. JULY 8, 1976.
RAYMOND GETTY D. DECEMBER 23, 1977.
FRED FITCH D. MARCH 16, 1978.
ALICE JANE GETTY D. MAY 10, 1978.
DALE V. KISTLER D. MARCH 17, 1979.
NINA DAVIS FITCH D. OCTOBER 22, 1979.
VICTOR W. FITCH D. DECEMBER 17, 1979.

CORRECTIONS

P. 27 TRAVIS JAMES MORE B. MARCH 24, 1967.
P. 21 BETH ANN HOLOCHER B. OCTOBER 9, 1964 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY
HOLOCHER.

BERNARDETTE ANN CAPLE B. MAY 3, 1957 AT GARRETT, IND.
LEANN ETHEL CAPLE B. SEPT. 22, 1934 AT CROMWELL, IND. M. ON
AUG. 5, 1961 TO EUGENE ALLEN CULBERTSON B. NOV. 6, 1934 AT
AUBURN, IND. ISSUE 2

DEAN LEROY CULBERTSON B. MAY 15, 1962 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.

DAVID ALLEN CULBERTSON B. APRIL 8, 1964 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
MAURICE KEITH FITCH B. OCT. 9, 1901 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. M. ON JUNE 19, 1926 TO LOIS BYERLEY B. AUG. 12, 1903 IN EEL
RIVER TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. JUNE 16, 1952. B.P. PERRY
TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 2

BRYCE GORDON FITCH B. MARCH 27, 1927 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND.

NOEL BERNON FITCH B. APRIL 12, 1935 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND.

M. ON

OTIS BERNON FITCH B. DEC. 20, 1904 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. M. ON DEC. 30, 1926 TO ESTHER DOLL B. APRIL 28, 1900 AT
SPENCERVILLE, IND. ISSUE 3

ELSIE MAY FITCH B. AUG. 15, 1927 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
OCT. 27, 1951 TO ROBERT LEROY FULK B. JULY 15, 1924 AT
CHURUBUSCO, IND. D. DEC. 12, 1969. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY,
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 3

ELSIE MAY FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON DEC. 26, 1971 TO HAROLD
JONES B. MAY 3, 1924 IN OHIO.

KAREN MARIE FULK B. NOV. 24, 1952 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON MAY 14, 1971 TO TIMOTHY CHRISTOPHER LORTIE
B. JUNE 29, 1950.

KEITH MARION FULK B. MAY 8, 1954 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN MAURICE FULK B. JAN. 14, 1958 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
WARREN JOHN FITCH B. APRIL 15, 1929 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
MAY 13, 1950 TO BETTY L. BROWN B. MAY 18, 1930 IN FORT WAYNE,
IND. ISSUE 4

CATHY SUE FITCH B. MARCH 2, 1952 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 4, 1971 TO RICKY J. WIES B. NOV. 1, 1950 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND.

CAROL LOUISE FITCH B. DEC. 22, 1953 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
JOHN ALAN FITCH B. MARCH 13, 1955 IN GARRETT, IND.

LARRY MICHAEL FITCH B. FEB. 3, 1956 IN KENDALLVILLE, IND.
MAXINE JOAN FITCH B. JAN. 28, 1931 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JAN. 13, 1949 TO RICHARD LEE OBER B. AUG. 3, 1930 AT GARRETT,
IND. ISSUE 4

GERRY LEE OBER B. AUG. 6, 1949 IN GARRETT, IND.

SUSAN JANE OBER B. MAY 25, 1954 IN GARRETT, IND.

TERESA MAY OBER (TWIN) B. FEB. 17, 1964 IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

SHARON LYNN OBER (TWIN) B. FEB. 17, 1964 IN COLUMBUS, OHIO.

WALTER VAN TWILLER FITCH B. MARCH 24, 1874 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. JAN. 2, 1902. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN CO., IND.

FLORENCE BESSIE FITCH B. MAY 10, 1875 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. JULY 9, 1942. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON APRIL 10, 1900 TO FREDERICK JACOB KELL B. JUNE 30, 1872 IN PERRY
TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. AUG. 1959. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY,
ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 5

CAROLYN KELL B. JUNE 8, 1901 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
M. ON JUNE 9, 1923 TO CLARENCE PERRY DAVIS B. NOV. 28, 1892 AT
MONROE, IND. D. MARCH 31, 1965. B.P. COVINGTON MEMORIAL GARDENS,
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 4

(CONTINUED)

ENID DAVIS B. DEC. 17, 1924 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JULY 17, 1943 TO WALTER HONEICK, UR. B. MAY 17, 1925 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 2

GARY WALTER HONEICK B. SEPT. 20, 1944 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON SEPT. 1, 1970 TO SHERYL LYNN HALL B. MARCH 4,
IN DES MOINES, IOWA.

GALE LESLIE HONEICK B. SEPT. 27, 1946 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON AUG. 21, 1965 TO DONALD LEE BRICE B. SEPT. 28, 1945
IN BOONE, IOWA. ISSUE 3

DANETTE RENEE BRICE B. JULY 8, 1966 AT AMES, IOWA.

CHRISTOPHER JAMES BRICE B. OCT. 19, 1967 AT AMES, IOWA.

KIMBERLY DAWN BRICE B. JAN. 27, 1970 IN AMES, IOWA.

DAVID EVAN DAVIS B. APRIL 7, 1926 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JUNE 21, 1952 TO SHARON LOUISE WILLIG B. AUG. 19, 1932 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 5

WALTER KEITH DAVIS B. MAY 29, 1953 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
D. MAY 30, 1953. B.P. CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CEMETERY, FORT
WAYNE, IND.

KARL VICTOR DAVIS B. AUG. 12, 1954 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

KATHRYN CHRISTINE DAVIS B. APRIL 2, 1958 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

KEVAN ROBERT DAVIS B. AUG. 20, 1962 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

KAROLYN ANN DAVIS B. AUG. 5, 1969 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

SHARON LEONE DAVIS B. DEC. 28, 1928 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 11, 1954 TO ALEXANDER JOKAY B. NOV. 8, 1927 IN KOMAROM,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ISSUE 2

ALEX MOR JOKAY B. OCT. 26, 1961 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

NICHOLAS BENJAMIN JOKAY B. SEPT. 5, 1963 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH REBECCA DAVIS B. FEB. 5, 1938 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
NOV. 21, 1959 TO DARREL ROSS MONROE B. JUNE 7, 1938 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND. DIVORCED MAY 1966. ISSUE 2

REBECCA LYNN MONROE B. JAN. 24, 1961 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

BRYAN JAMES MONROE B. SEPT. 22, 1962 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

SARAH REBECCA DAVIS SECOND MARRIAGE ON NOV. 12, 1966 TO

RONALD WAYNE BAILEY B. NOV. 4, 1936 AT MUNCIE, IND. ISSUE 1

ROLLAND JOSEPH BAILEY B. JAN. 9, 1959 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

(SON BY FIRST MARRIAGE)

MARK CHRISTOPHER BAILEY B. MAY 20, 1967 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

SARAH ELIZABETH KELL B. JULY 12, 1902 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN

COUNTY, IND. M. ON JUNE 7, 1934 TO EARL EUGENE DEBOLT B. FEB. 13,

1896 IN WASHBURN, ILL. D. MAY 19, 1957. B.P. DUNEDIN, FLA. ISSUE 1

MARGARET ELIZABETH DEBOLT B. OCT. 5, 1936 IN CLEARWATER, FLA.

M. ON MAY 5, 1972 TO DONALD WAYNE LEHMAN B. MAY 1, 1929.

FREDERICK JACOB KELL B. MARCH 16, 1904 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN

COUNTY, IND. M. ON NOV. 15, 1930 TO ELSIE CORNELIA ADEN B. DEC. 1,

1903 AT GIBSON CITY, ILL. ISSUE 3

ANN LOUISE KELL B. MAY 18, 1932 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON

MAY 18, 1952 TO RUSSELL LYONS, JR. B. MARCH 28, 1930 IN

HICKSVILLE, OHIO. ISSUE 3

DIANE ELAINE LYONS B. SEPT. 13, 1953 IN AUBURN, IND.

ALAN BLAINE LYONS B. AUG. 26, 1954 AT AUBURN, IND.

PERRY LYNN LYONS B. APRIL 18, 1957 AT AUBURN, IND.

VICTOR JACOB KELL B. DEC. 10, 1933 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN

COUNTY, IND. D. JAN. 28, 1934. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY,

ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

JACOB FREDERICK KELL B. JULY 28, 1935 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN

COUNTY, IND. M. ON OCT. 12, 1963 TO EULA MAY FREEMAN B. FEB. 10,

(CONTINUED)

1931 AT GARRETT, IND. ISSUE 4

LISA ANN KELL B. OCT. 11, 1964 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

LANA SUE KELL B. SEPT. 2, 1966 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ERIC LYNN KELL B. NOV. 12, 1968 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

NATHAN ALAN KELL B. JAN. 25, 1970 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

MARY ELLEN KELL B. FEB. 2, 1907 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. M. ON OCT. 27, 1935 TO DEWEY SYLVESTER ARNOLD B. OCT. 19,
1900 IN LAKE TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY. ISSUE 4

MARK LYNN ARNOLD B. APRIL 25, 1938 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

MARTHA ELLEN ARNOLD B. JULY 9, 1940 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

D. MARCH 25, 1941. B.P. EEL RIVER CEMETERY NEAR CHURUBUSCO, IND.

AARON ROGER ARNOLD B. AUG. 21, 1942 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 15, 1962 TO ANN MARIE ELSIE HARDIEK B. AUG. 13, 1942 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 2

ANITA MAY ARNOLD B. AUG. 30, 1967 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

LORI ANN ARNOLD B. OCT. 9, 1968 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ELI JOSEPH ARNOLD B. JUNE 10, 1945 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JAN. 7, 1967 TO BONNIE JEAN WALLACE B. NOV. 17, 1944 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

ANTHONY ALLEN ARNOLD B. AUG. 25, 1969 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

THOMAS KELL B. NOV. 9, 1908 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. AUG. 30, 1910. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

NATHANIEL FITCH B. JUNE 5, 1877 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. SEPT. 14, 1877. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

GRACE FITCH B. NOV. 19, 1878 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. AUG. 18, 1879. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

ALTHEA CREOLA FITCH B. DEC. 30, 1880 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. NOV. 4, 1930. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

(CONTINUED)

BEATRICE VICTORIA FITCH B. AUG. 1, 1884 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. NOV. 15, 1969. M. ON JAN. 3, 1917 TO CHARLES ALLEN LEAYCRAFT
B. JUNE 26, 1864 ON BERMUDA ISLANDS. D. NOV. 6, 1920. CREMATION. ISSUE 2

FRANCIS MATHIAS LEAYCRAFT B. OCT. 17, 1917 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON MARCH 9, 1952 TO IVA FRANCES SCOTT B. SEPT. 14, 1916 IN
BOLIVAR, TENN. ISSUE 2

HUBERT FRANCES LEAYCRAFT B. APRIL 7, 1941 IN WILMINGTON, CAL.

VERDA FERN LEAYCRAFT B. OCT. 16, 1946 IN WILMINGTON, CAL.

VICTORIA LEAYCRAFT B. JULY 13, 1921 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
TO DON NEALY B. FEB. 15, 1920 IN CALIFORNIA. ISSUE 2

VICTOR GEORGE NEALY B. AUG. 13, 1953 IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CAL.

CHARLES JOSEPH NEALY B. AUG. 29, 1954 IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CAL.

MATTHIAS FITCH FAMILY

MARRIAGES

NOEL FITCH to LUCILE LEPIRE, MARCH 5, 1971.
JULIA MYRTLE HARTNETT to FRANK PATTON COEN, APRIL 22, 1972.
CAROL LOUISE FITCH to TIM M. LOCKWOOD, MARCH 3, 1973.
SUSAN JANE OBER to DAVID EUGENE FURLOUGH, DECEMBER 15, 1973.
DIANE ELAINE LYONS to REV. PAUL RICHARD BARNES, MAY 16, 1975.
JOHN ALAN FITCH to AMY SUE CANTER, JUNE 21, 1975.
KARL VICTOR DAVID to MAUREEN DEBRA FRANK, OCTOBER 2, 1976.
LARRY MICHAEL FITCH to MARY ROMANS, JULY 14, 1978.
PERRY LYNN LYONS to DENISE LOUISE ALEXANDER, AUGUST 26, 1978.
KATHRYN CHRISTINE DAVIS to DAVID ALLAN SAMANIEGO, NOVEMBER 11, 1978.
DEBORAH SUE GULICK to LLOYD KNOWLES, JULY 23, 1979.
RICHARD R. GULICK, JR. to SUSAN SMITH, JUNE 14, 1980.
REBECCA LYNN MONROE to GREGORE CHRISTOPHER BRATT, JULY 19, 1980.

BIRTHS

NANCY MARIE FITCH B. DECEMBER 9, 1971 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. NOLL FITCH.
KRIS ALLEN LORTIE B. MARCH 5, 1972 AND JASON ROBERT LORTIE B. JULY 3, 1973
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. TIMOTHY LORTIE.
KELLY ROMANS B. MAY 23, 1972 ISSUE OF MRS. LARRY M. FITCH.
AREN JAMES HONEICK B. MAY 12, 1974 AND ALENA MICHELLE HONEICK B. DECEMBER 30,
1976 ISSUES OF GARY W. HONEICK.
DANIEL ADAM LOCKWOOD B. NOVEMBER 26, 1976 AND JARED MICHAEL LOCKWOOD
B. NOVEMBER 21, 1978 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. TIM LOCKWOOD.
JUDY MARIE FITCH B. JULY 15, 1978 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN ALAN FITCH.
KYLE JUSTIN WIESS B. APRIL 19, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. RICKY WIESS.

DEATHS

MAURICE FITCH D. DECEMBER 9, 1974.
OTIS FITCH D. JULY 1, 1976.
DON NEALY D. JULY 11, 1976.
CHARLES CAPLE D. OCTOBER 21, 1978.
MERLIN FITCH D. FEBRUARY 13, 1980.



STANDING

Margarite Beers, Kenneth Beers, Bertha Beers, Alice Beers, LeRoy Beers

SEATED

Levi Beers, Jane Fitch Beers

JANE BEERS married Levi Beers a preacher. They reared five children.

Jane wanted to go to college, she wanted to learn Latin. A teacher from Boston was hired by her father to teach in the country school.

Jane and her husband encouraged her brothers and sisters to go to college and opened their home so they could reside with them.

Their life was lived in different places since Levi's preaching took them to Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana.



MARY JANE FITCH B. OCT. 15, 1844 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
D. MAR. 17, 1925. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, NEENAH, WISC. M. ON DEC. 24,
1873 TO LEVI BEERS B. JUNE 14, 1845 IN RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO. D. FEB. 16,
1919. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, NEENAH, WISC. ISSUE 5

KENNETH FITCH BEERS B. JUNE 15, 1876 AT WABASH, IND. D. SEPT. 17,
1944. B.P. HIGHLAND CEMETERY, SOUTH BEND, IND. M. ON OCT. 22, 1901
TO MAY MILLER B. MAY 29, 1876 AT GOSHEN, IND. D. MAY 1948. B.P.
HIGHLAND CEMETERY, SOUTH BEND, IND.

LEROY FITCH BEERS B. OCT. 9, 1880 AT CLARION, PA. D. NOV. 28, 1962.
B.P. PINE HILL CEMETERY, RUSH, N.Y. M. ON MAR. 30, 1910 TO CLARA
DARROHN B. APR. 24, 1883 AT RUSH, N.Y. ISSUE 4

KENNETH DARROHN BEERS B. APR. 30, 1913 AT ROCHESTER, N.Y.
D. JAN. 29, 1929. B.P. PINE HILL CEMETERY, RUSH, N.Y.
DOUGLAS DARROHN BEERS B. JULY 13, 1915 AT ROCHESTER, N.Y.
D. MAR. 26, 1955. B.P. PINE HILL CEMETERY, RUSH, N.Y.
M. JANIE SITTON. DECEASED. ISSUE 2

JANIE SITTON BEERS B. MAR. 23, 1943 AT ENID, OKLA.

DOUGLAS DARROHN BEERS B. MAR. 1, 1947 AT DENVER, COL.

DOUGLAS BEERS SECOND MARRIAGE ON MAR. 14, 1941 TO MRS.

MARGARET JACKSON TEAGARDEN B. DEC. 19, 1914 AT GILMER, TEXAS.

TERRY JANE TEAGARDEN

NANCY LYNN TEAGARDEN

ROBERT LEROY BEERS B. MAY 10, 1919 AT ROCHESTER, N.Y. M. ON
OCT. 9, 1943 TO EVELYN MYRA GRACEY B. MAR. 22, 1922 AT
PHILADELPHIA, PA. ISSUE 3

STEVEN ROBERT BEERS B. DEC. 17, 1951 AT MONTGOMERY, ALA.

GAIL EVELYN BEERS B. MAY 17, 1953 AT MONTGOMERY, ALA.

(CONTINUED)

RICHARD LLOYD BEERS B. JULY 9, 1956 AT DENVER, COL.
ELLEN DARROHN BEERS B. DEC. 27, 1923 AT ROCHESTER, N.Y. M. ON
MAR. 28, 1948 TO DONALD KENNETH WEBER B. FEB. 17, 1924 AT
SHILLING, PA.

CYNTHIA WEBER ADOPTED. B. JUNE 9, 1953 AT CHATHAM, N.J.
JOYCE SHERWOOD WEBER ADOPTED. B. SEPT. 10, 1955 AT
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

ELLEN DARROHN BEERS SECOND MARRIAGE ON MAY 31, 1963 TO DENNIS
GORDON ADAMS B. AUG. 30, 1938 AT PITTSBURGH, PA. ISSUE 3

HEATHER RUTH ADAMS B. DEC. 1, 1964 AT ROCHESTER, N.Y.

MARCIA CLARE ADAMS B. JULY 7, 1966 AT DAYTON, OHIO.

ALYCE ANNETTA ADAMS B. JAN. 18, 1970 AT ROCHESTER, N.Y.

MARGARITE BEERS B. AUG. 12, 1878 AT WABASH, IND. M. ON JUNE 23,
1903 TO IRVING EUGENE OZANNE B. JULY 28, 1865 AT SOMERS, WISC.

D. JULY 15, 1945. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, NEENAH, WISC. ISSUE 4

IRVING LEE OZANNE B. AUG. 6, 1904 AT NEENAH, WISC. D. FEB. 9,
1931. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, NEENAH, WISC.

BRYCE KENNETH OZANNE B. OCT. 4, 1908 AT NEENAH, WISC. M. ON
MAR. 23, 1935 TO DOROTHY JANE MERTEN B. JULY 10, 1913 AT
GREELEY, COL. ISSUE 4

JUDITH CAROL OZANNE B. APR. 28, 1939 AT NEENAH, WISC. M. ON

JUNE 9, 1962 TO STEPHEN LYON B. JULY 9, 1940 AT ASHEVILLE, N. CAR.
ISSUE 1

DEREK REED LYON B. NOV. 10, 1969 AT DAYTON, OHIO

GERARD MERTEN OZANNE B. MAY 16, 1941 AT APPLETON, WISC.

M. ON JAN. 30, 1965 TO LINDA EWERTS B. AUG. 9, 1942 AT
DAVENPORT, IOWA.

JACQUELINE SUE OZANNE B. FEB. 16, 1948 AT MOLINE, ILL.

(CONTINUED)

M. ON JAN. 18, 1970 TO GREGORY WILLE B. APRIL 7, 1946.

STEVEN KENNETH OZANNE B. AUG. 24, 1952 AT MOLINE, ILL.

LUCILE MARGARITA OZANNE B. OCT. 29, 1911 AT NEENAH, WISC. M. ON
JULY 6, 1935 TO CHARLES WILLIAM CASSELL B. SEPT. 25, 1906 AT
INDIANAPOLIS, IND. ISSUE 3

SUSAN MARGARITA CASSELL B. JAN. 29, 1938. M. ON SEPT. 20,
1968 TO PATRICK SCHULTZ SPANGLER B. MAR. 11, 1938 AT
HANOVER, PA. ISSUE 1

RANDALL RICHARD SPANGLER B. MAR. 21, 1971 AT LAGUNA
BEACH, CAL.

SANDRA JEAN CASSELL B. JUNE 23, 1941 AT BALTIMORE, MD. M.
ON FEB. 1, 1964 TO TOBIAS R. PETERSON B. OCT. 12, 1924 AT
HOUGHTON, MICH. ISSUE 3

MARGARET ESTHER PETERSON B. OCT. 8, 1964 AT WAYNE, MICH.
SUSAN RUTH PETERSON B. APR. 9, 1966 AT YPSILANTI, MICH.
MATTHEW WILLIAM PETERSON B. APR. 20, 1967 AT YPSILANTI,
MICH.

DANIEL LEE PETERSON ADOPTED OCT. 1969. B. AUG. 31,
1962 AT COVINGTON, KY.

PETERSON CHILDREN OF TOBIAS PETERSON'S FIRST MARRIAGE.

JOYCE ELEANOR PETERSON B. MAY 4, 1955 AT YPSILANTI, MICH.

JILL MALLORY PETERSON B. JUNE 4, 1956 AT YPSILANTI, MICH.

JEFFRY RICHARD PETERSON B. MAY 18, 1959 AT YPSILANTI, MICH.

TANYA PETERSON DEATON

JAMES C. PETERSON

CHARLES WILLIAM CASSELL, JR. B. JAN. 16, 1943 AT WESTMINSTER,
MD.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT WILLARD OZANNE B. OCT. 16, 1914 AT NEENAH, WISC. M. ON
JUNE 24, 1940 TO FRANCES WEBB B. DEC. 1, 1919 AT SYRACUSE, N.Y. ISSUE 4
LEE IRVING OZANNE B. AUG. 29, 1941 AT APPLETON, WISC.
LARRY JAMES OZANNE B. JUNE 27, 1943 AT DENVER, COL.
BRADFORD OZANNE B. SEPT. 16, 1945 AT DENVER, COL.
ROY DOUGLAS OZANNE B. APR. 24, 1948 AT DENVER, COL.
BERTHA DELL BEERS B. JULY 22, 1883 AT RICEVILLE, PA. D. JUNE 30,
1949. B.P. NEENAH, WISC. M. ON MAY 30, 1919 TO JOHN ALEXANDER HUNT
B. JAN. 28, 1877 AT SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. D. AUG. 30, 1919. B.P.
MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY, OAKLAND, CAL.
JOHN HUNT ADOPTED. B. JAN. 28, 1921 AT DETROIT, MICH. DECEASED.
M. ON AUG. 4, 1945 TO JEANNINE MILDRED MORRISON B. DEC. 22, 1923
AT NEWARK, N.J. ISSUE 3
LAWRENCE JOHN HUNT B. MAY 29, 1946 AT CLEVELAND, OHIO.
NANCY JEANNE HUNT B. NOV. 3, 1948 AT WILMINGTON, DEL.
GORDON HUNT B. JAN. 28, 1951.
ALICE NATHALIA BEERS B. JUNE 9, 1884 AT RIMIERSBURG, PA. D. FEB. 7,
1965. M. ON JULY 19, 1910 TO LOUIS HENRY KEPHART. B. MAY 14, 1871
AT SAND SPRINGS, IOWA. D. JAN. 13, 1931. B.P. FAIRMOUNT.

JANE BEERS FAMILY

MARRIAGES

DOUGLAS DARROHN BEERS TO LINDA GALLAVIN, DECEMBER 27, 1969.
CHARLES WILLIAM CASSELL JR. TO BERNADINE McCLEOD, AUGUST 19, 1972.
GAIL EVELYN BEERS TO STEPHEN M. PHILLIPS, JUNE, 1977.
STEVEN KENNETH OZANNE TO LINDA JOYCE GERLING

BIRTHS

ERICA CATHERINE OZANNE B. SEPTEMBER 4, 1972 AND ELISSA MARY OZANNE
B. SEPTEMBER 30, 1974 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. GERARD M. OZANNE.
OSCAR CLAYTON WILLE B. FEBRUARY 22, 1975, NICHOLAS BRIAN WILLE B. MARCH 15,
1977 AND JESSICA KATHERINE WILLE B. DECEMBER 13, 1978 ISSUE OF
MR. AND MRS. GREGORY G. WILLE.
JONATHAN ROSS OZANNE B. SEPTEMBER 16, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. STEVEN K.
OZANNE.

DEATHS

MARGARITA BEERS OZANNE D. SEPTEMBER 13, 1975.

CORRECTION

Pg. 39 IN FITCH HISTORY BOOK

DOUGLAS DARROHN BEERS JR. IS THE SON OF DOUGLAS BEERS AND MARGARET
JACKSON TEAGARTEN.



LEFT TO RIGHT

Allen Fitch, Oakley Fitch, Genevieve Fitch, his wife, Grandma Fitch, Luann, Charles Fitch, Giles, their son standing, Harry, their son, Aunt Emma, Allen's wife, May Harvey, Aunt Mable Durkee, her sister.

This Picture was taken at 2701 Bryant Avenue So. in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

CHARLES FITCH, fourth child of Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth Fitch married Lou Ann Club. They had seven children.

Charles and his brother Allen drove by horse and wagon to Iowa. They settled there in Keokuck County where Charles and Lou Ann's first two children were born. They moved to Clarksville, Butler Co., Iowa, where the other five children were born.

Charles and his family along with his brother Allen went by horse and wagon to South St. Paul.

They started the first livestock commission firm in South St. Paul.

Charles Fitch became of Mayor of South St. Paul. A park was named for him. His daughter Rose May Fitch was one of the first school teachers in South St. Paul.



CHARLES FITCH B. MARCH 29, 1846 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. AUG. 21, 1925. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON

APRIL 26, 1868 TO LOU ANN CLUBB B. NOV. 27, 1846 IN MORGAN COUNTY, IND.

D. MARCH 16, 1943. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN. ISSUE 7

STELLA FITCH B. JAN. 31, 1869 IN KEOKUCK COUNTY, IOWA. D. JAN. 31,
1869, KEOKUCK COUNTY, IOWA.

ROSIE MAY FITCH B. MARCH 16, 1870 IN KEOKUCK COUNTY, IOWA. D. OCT. 24,
1966. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON OCT. 8,
1893 TO PETER HARVEY B. OCT. 2, 1868 AT WAVERLY, IOWA. D. MAY 11, 1956.
B.P. SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN. ISSUE 1

KENNETH FITCH HARVEY B. AUG. 15, 1908 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. FIRST
MARRIAGE ON JUNE 16, 1934 TO DORIS GENEVIEVE HAZELTON. DIVORCED.
SECOND MARRIAGE ON DEC. 18, 1937 TO BERNICE ALBERTA WIRE B. JUNE 10,
1912 AT MEDICINE BOW, WYOMING. ISSUE 3

LUANN HARVEY B. MAY 28, 1940 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. M. ON
NOV. 21, 1962 TO REV. ROBERT L. HART B. JAN. 31, 1939. ISSUE 1

PAUL ROBERT HART B. APRIL 24, 1968 AT ST. PAUL, MINN.

BETTE MAY HARVEY B. MARCH 5, 1942 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. M. ON
JUNE 18, 1965 TO REV. DWIGHT RALPH CHAMBERLAIN B. FEB. 4, 1939
AT BEATRICE, NEB. ISSUE 3

SCOTT DWIGHT CHAMBERLAIN B. MARCH 12, 1968 AT
WORTHINGTON, MINN.

KAY BETTE (TWIN) CHAMBERLAIN B. SEPT. 29, 1970

KAREN MAE (TWIN) CHAMBERLAIN B. SEPT. 29, 1970

SUE ALICE HARVEY B. SEPT. 7, 1943 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. M. ON
NOV. 8, 1968 TO HOWARD RALPH SHIRLEY B. MAY 6, 1937 AT OAKES, N.D.

NATHANIEL PHILLIP FITCH B. JUNE 19, 1873 AT CLARKSVILLE, IOWA, BUTLER
COUNTY. D. JUNE 28, 1881. B.P. PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY.

(CONTINUED)

HARRY FITCH B. JULY 17, 1875 AT CLARKSVILLE, IOWA, BUTLER COUNTY.
D. JUNE 12, 1909. B.P. OAK HILL CEMETERY, SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN.
CHARLES OAKLEY FITCH B. MARCH 19, 1878 AT CLARKSVILLE IOWA, BUTLER
COUNTY. D. OCT. 23, 1958. B.P. ACACIA PARK CEMETERY, SOUTH ST. PAUL,
MINN. M. ON JUNE 16, 1904 TO GENEVIEVE VARIEN B. NOV. 26, 1880 AT
HASTINGS, MINN. D. MAY 18, 1948. B.P. ACACIA CEMETERY, ST. PAUL,
MINN. ISSUE 3

MARJORIE VIVIAN FITCH B. JUNE 4, 1905 AT ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON
OCT. 7, 1930 TO LOREN H. SHIRK B. JUNE 26, 1902 AT MILLEDGEVILLE,
ILL. ISSUE 2

ANNE LUCILE SHIRK B. DEC. 2, 1933 AT BALTIMORE, MD. M. ON
JUNE 11, 1955 TO PAUL MORETON NOBIS B. AUG. 6, 1933 AT
CINCINNATI, OHIO. ISSUE 3

JENNIFER NOBIS B. SEPT. 30, 1957.

PAUL JEFFREY NOBIS B. SEPT. 7, 1959.

SARAH ANNE NOBIS B. FEB. 14, 1964.

SUSAN ELIZABETH SHIRK B. MARCH 26, 1941 AT CINCINNATI, OHIO.
M. ON AUG. 24, 1963 TO BILLY JOE BOWLING B. JUNE 19, 1941 AT
CINCINNATI, OHIO. ISSUE 3

ELIZABETH ANN BOWLING B. NOV. 30, 1966 IN CANTON, OHIO

MICHELLE MARQUERITE BOWLING B. APRIL 23, 1969 AT
COLMAR, FRANCE.

LAURA CHRISTINE BOWLING B. AUG. 27, 1971 AT CANTON, OHIO.

ELIZABETH ANN FITCH B. JULY 5, 1915 AT ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON
JUNE 28, 1940 TO JOHN WILLIAM PEARSON B. JUNE 2, 1918 AT ST. PAUL,
MINN. ISSUE 2

JON OAKLEY PEARSON B. NOV. 1, 1944.

ANN ELIZABETH PEARSON B. NOV. 9, 1946. M. ON JUNE 21, 1969 TO

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM CLAIRE MILON.

LUCILE VARIEN FITCH B. FEB. 16, 1917 AT ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON
AUG. 8, 1945 TO CLARENCE B. KIERNAN B. OCT. 1, 1918 AT ALLENTOWN,
PA. ISSUE 4

SARAH JANE KIERNAN B. JUNE 6, 1946 AT ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON
FEB. 10, 1968 TO ARTUR XAVIER LAMBO VILANKULA B. JAN. 13, 1943
AT MASSINGA MOZAMBIQUE, EAST AFRICA. ISSUE 1

LUCIA FELIZMINA VILANKULA B. JUNE 25, 1970.

CHARLES BERNARD KIERNAN B. JULY 31, 1949 AT ALLENTOWN, PA.

PETER ALLEN KIERNAN B. JAN. 15, 1952 AT ALLENTOWN, PA.

D. MARCH 21, 1952. B.P. UNION CEMETERY, MAXATAWNY, BERKS
COUNTY, PA.

MICHAEL ANDREW KIERNAN B. OCT. 17, 1961.

MABEL FITCH B. SEPT. 6, 1881 AT CLARKSVILLE, IOWA. D. JAN. 15, 1960.
B.P. ACACIA PARK CEMETERY, SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINN. M. ON SEPT. 20, 1905
TO JOHN RAY DURKEE B. DEC. 22, 1876 AT ROCHESTER, MINN. D. MAY 6, 1944.
MABEL FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON MAY 18, 1945 TO ARTHUR LEONARD ANDERSON
B. NOV. 18, 1891 AT SIOUX CITY, IOWA.

GILES FITCH B. NOV. 20, 1885 AT CLARKSVILLE, IOWA. D. JAN. 31, 1942.
B.P. ST. PETER'S CEMETERY, MENDOTA, MINN. M. DEC. 27, 1917 TO FRANCIS
KATHRYN FINNERTY.

CHARLES FITCH FAMILY

MARRIAGE

JON OAKLEY PEARSON TO MARGARET ELSIE ANDERSON, JULY 28, 1979.

BIRTHS

ALICINA ROSE VILANKULA B. DECEMBER 18, 1972 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. ARTUR
VILANKULA.

DAVID GRAHAM HART B. FEBRUARY 23, 1972 AND SHARON LUANN HART B. MAY 2, 1974
ISSUES OF REV. AND MRS. ROBERT HART.

BRIAN HOWARD SHIRLEY B. MAY 15, 1973 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. HOWARD SHIRLEY.

DEATHS

PAUL JEFFREY NOBIS D. NOVEMBER 9, 1975.

LUCILLE FITCH KIERNAN D. OCTOBER 29, 1978.



AMOS FITCH HOMESTEAD



NANCY ELIZABETH FITCH and AMOS FITCH

AMOS FITCH, the 5th child of Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch was born June 11th, 1849 at the Fitch homestead in Perry Twp., Allen County, Indiana. He received a good common school education and later attended Perry Center Seminary. He was a member of the Good Templars Lodge of Hometown. In 1878, he was united in marriage to Nancy Elizabeth Hunter, who was born in 1849, daughter of William T. and Jane Hunter of Hometown, Indiana. She was a member of the Universalist Church. In 1878, they came to live in Butler Township, DeKalb County on the Allen-DeKalb County line on the 160 acre farm given him by his father which was purchased in 1835 from the government signed by President Andrew Jackson. Here he erected a two-story brick dwelling which is now a Centennial Farm having remained in possession of the Fitch family for more than 100 years. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1928 at the family home. Mr. Fitch was a member for several years of the Knights of Pythias Lodge of Auburn, Indiana. He was a progressive farmer, civic-minded and always interested in the betterment of home and community rural life and took an active part in business enterprises in DeKalb and Allen counties.

Four children were born to this union — Gladys, Rolland H., Marie E. and Marguerette L. Mrs. Fitch passed away June 1st, 1930. Mr. Fitch passed away November 9, 1935. Interment Cedar Chapel cemetery, DeKalb County, Indiana.



Several lines of extremely faint, illegible text located in the lower third of the page. The text appears to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs, but the characters are too light to be read.

A few more lines of extremely faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page, likely a footer or concluding remarks. The text is too faded to be discernible.

AMOS FITCH B. JUNE 11, 1849 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA.
D. NOV. 9, 1935. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA.
M. ON NOV. 27, 1878 TO NANCY ELIZABETH HUNTER B. JAN. 22, 1849 IN PERRY
TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA. D. JUNE 1, 1930. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL
CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA. ISSUE 4

GLADYS FITCH B. OCT. 15, 1881 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
D. OCT. 30, 1962. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
ROLLAND H. FITCH B. SEPT. 12, 1884 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,
IND. D. JUNE 3, 1959. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND.
M. ON NOV. 27, 1930 TO MARGARET HELEN GUTERMUTH B. OCT. 11, 1890 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. D. MAY 21, 1943. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB
COUNTY, INDIANA.

MARIE ELAINE FITCH B. JUNE 29, 1891 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY,
IND. M. ON OCT. 26, 1916 TO ARTHUR GIDEON HOUSER B. OCT. 31, 1880 IN
BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. D. MAY 26, 1955. B.P. CEDAR
CHAPEL CEMETERY, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 3

RICHARD EUGENE HOUSER B. MAY 4, 1918 IN GARRETT, IND. M. AUG. 16,
1941 TO LOIS JOAN HYLER B. JAN. 18, 1921 AT WILLARD, OHIO. ISSUE 3

STEVEN RICHARD HOUSER B. SEPT. 19, 1942 IN LOS ANGELES, CAL.
M. OCT. 19, 1968 TO BRENDA LEE MORR B. DEC. 19, 1948 IN
DECATUR, ILL. ISSUE 1

CHRISTOPHER STEVEN HOUSER B. JUNE 25, 1971 IN XENIA, OHIO

MARK ALAN HOUSER B. SEPT. 23, 1952 IN XENIA, OHIO.

KENT ARTHUR HOUSER B. NOV. 25, 1954 IN XENIA, OHIO.

MARGARET ELAINE HOUSER B. JUNE 4, 1922 IN GARRETT, IND. M. ON
JULY 3, 1954 TO VINCENT J. KIRBACH B. NOV. 7, 1918 IN ROCKRIDGE,
ILL. ISSUE 1

(CONTINUED)

LINDA SUE KIRBACH B. JUNE 19, 1959 IN CLEVELAND, OHIO.

JOAN ELIZABETH HOUSER B. NOV. 12, 1924 IN GARRETT, IND. M. ON
APRIL 17, 1949 TO RALPH EUGENE DOVE B. SEPT. 11, 1924 IN JACKSON
TOWNSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 2

KATHY ELAINE DOVE B. AUG. 31, 1952 IN GARRETT, IND.

KIM ALAN DOVE B. FEB. 5, 1955 IN GARRETT, IND.

MARGUERETTE LOUISE FITCH B. JAN. 28, 1894 IN BUTLER TOWNSHIP, DEKALB
COUNTY, IND. M. ON MAR. 10, 1925 TO HARRY EDWARD WERT B. MARCH 28,
1888 IN GARRETT, IND. D. AUG. 25, 1956. B.P. CEDAR CHAPEL CEMETERY,
DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

AMOS FITCH FAMILY

MARRIAGES

KATHY ELAINE DOVE to LARRY D. NOLL, SEPTEMBER 9, 1972.

MARK ALAN HOUSER to KATHLEEN ELIZABETH HOGAN, MAY 15, 1976.

KIM ALAN DOVE to JUDI PINGEL, AUGUST 13, 1977.

KENT ARTHUR HOUSER to MARIAN B. MARRONE, SEPTEMBER 29, 1979.

BIRTHS

AARON RICHARD HOUSER B. SEPTEMBER 16, 1974 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. STEVEN
HOUSER.

CHAD D. NOLL B. OCTOBER 4, 1977 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. LARRY D. NOLL.



DELLA, OTIS, STELLA AND NORMA GLOYD

JEROME D. GLOYD, was born in Perry Township, July 12, 1841. In 1875, he was married to Fitelia, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, born in April 1851.

They have four children, Estalla, May Della, Otis F., and Norma A. Mr. Gloyd served his township as trustee four years, and evinced such ability in this direction that he was elected County Commissioner in 1882, and re-elected in 1884, and served six years. He had a fine farm of 160 acres.



CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/01 BY 60322 UCBAW

FITELIA FITCH B. APRIL 10, 1851 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. JAN. 8, 1935. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY. M. ON OCT. 6, 1875 TO

JEROME DORSEY GLOYD B. JULY 12, 1854 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. AUG. 26, 1917. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY. ISSUE 4

STELLA EDITH GLOYD B. JAN. 30, 1877 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,

IND. D. MARCH 9, 1964. B.P. PERRY CEMETERY, HUNTERTOWN, IND.

MAY DELLAH GLOYD B. NOV. 15, 1880 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. FEB. 13, 1912. B.P. PERRY CEMETERY, HUNTERTOWN, IND.

OTIS FITCH GLOYD B. JAN. 25, 1883 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. JAN. 4, 1944. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN Co., IND.

M. ON JUNE 27, 1907 TO OPAL ARVILLA MOSS B. FEB. 20, 1883 IN CEDAR

CREEK TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. NOV. 2, 1952. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP

CEMETERY, ALLEN Co., IND. ISSUE 3

HILDA RUTH GLOYD B. OCT. 17, 1908 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,

IND. D. MAY 15, 1920. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND.

OLIVE IOLENE GLOYD B. APRIL 12, 1912 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY

IND. M. ON JUNE 6, 1936 TO RUSSELL HOWARD PUSEY B. MARCH 13, 1909

IN HARTFORD TOWNSHIP, ADAMS COUNTY, IND.

SUE ELLEN PUSEY (ADOPTED) JUNE 15, 1946. B. MAY 4, 1946.

M. ON SEPT. 9, 1967 TO JAMES DOUGLAS MOYER B. AUG. 23, 1942,

ADAMS COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 2

BRUCE ALAN MOYER (TWIN) B. MARCH 12, 1968 IN INDIANAPOLIS,
IND.

BRYAN DOUGLAS MOYER (TWIN) B. MARCH 12, 1968 IN
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

MARK ALAN PUSEY (ADOPTED) FEB. 24, 1950. B. JAN. 13, 1950.

D. JUNE 25, 1951. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN Co., IND.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES DAVID PUSEY (ADOPTED) B. JAN. 25, 1947 IN FORT WAYNE,
IND. M. ON FEB. 7, 1965 TO SUE MARIE DELLSON (ADOPTED). ISSUE 2

DAWN MARIE PUSEY B. AUG. 13, 1965 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

KRISTIE ANN PUSEY B. JULY 11, 1971 IN

ROBERT MOSS GLOYD B. MARCH 11, 1916 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. M. ON MAY 24, 1941 TO EVELYN MAE PONTIUS B. FEB. 28, 1924
IN FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 6

TRAVIS GENE GLOYD B. DEC. 9, 1941 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
APRIL 25, 1964 TO BEVERLY ENGLEMAN B. NOV. 27, 1941. ISSUE 2

JEFFREY GENE GLOYD B. NOV. 21, 1966 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

JILL MARIE GLOYD B. DEC. 31, 1969 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

SARAH LOU GLOYD B. APRIL 22, 1943 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
OCT. 3, 1965 TO CHARLES LEGGITT B. AUG. 5, 1940. ISSUE 2

CURTISS REED LEGGITT B. AUG. 3, 1966 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

LORI LYNN LEGGITT B. FEB. 16, 1970 IN AKRON, OHIO.

SAMUEL JEROME GLOYD B. MAY 10, 1946 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
APRIL 19, 1970 TO KAREN LOCHIATTO B. APRIL 19, 1947

IN ISSUE 1

CANON BLAIN GLOYD B. JULY 8, 1971.

DENNIS ROBERT GLOYD B. MARCH 1, 1948 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 3, 1967 TO ROXANNE GROSS B. JUNE 14, 1949 IN ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. ISSUE 2

KIMBERLY KAY GLOYD B. OCT. 4, 1968 IN DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

ANGELA SUE GLOYD B. OCT. 2, 1970 IN DEKALB COUNTY, IND.

PAMELA KAY GLOYD B. JUNE 25, 1951 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. D.
JULY 9, 1952. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

SHARON DIAN GLOYD B. AUG. 29, 1952 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

NORMA ALICE GLOYD B. NOV. 30, 1885 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

(CONTINUED)

D. MAY 27, 1942. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
M. ON SEPT. 27, 1907 TO CHARLES ELMER MOUDY B. APRIL 4, 1886 NEAR
CEDARVILLE, IND. D. JUNE 24, 1948. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY,
ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 4

HERMAN RAWLES MOUDY B. DEC. 29, 1909 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND. M. SEPT. 5, 1936 TO EUNICE MAURINE FLAGG B. DEC. 31,
1914 IN RANTOUL, ILL. ISSUE 3

NORMAN EUGENE MOUDY B. MARCH 30, 1938 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON MAY 28, 1965 TO MARGARET SIDONIA HOFFER B. OCT. 17,
1940 IN RUSKA MOKRA, HUNGARY. ISSUE 3

MONICA ROCHELLE MOUDY B. MAY 6, 1967 IN YREKA, CAL.

DENA KATHLEEN MOUDY B. DEC. 23, 1969 IN YREKA, CAL.

KATRINA FRANCINE MOUDY B. JULY 5, 1971 IN RAYMOND, WASH.

RUTH ANN MOUDY B. OCT. 7, 1939 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.. M. ON
FEB. 28, 1959 TO ARTHUR FRANKLIN MC DANIEL B. JAN. 22, 1940
IN TUSCON, ARIZ. ISSUE 2

JEFFREY STUART MC DANIEL B. DEC. 2, 1959 IN TUSCON, ARIZ.

GREGORY ALAN MC DANIEL B. JULY 27, 1961 IN TUSCON, ARIZ.

ARLENE KAY MOUDY B. OCT. 16, 1944 NEAR FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JAN. 5, 1963 TO MERLIN DELBERT LEACH B. JULY 11, 1944 IN
CROSWELL, MICH. ISSUE 1

SHERRY LYNN LEACH B. AUG. 13, 1963 IN TUSCON, ARIZ.

HAZEL NAOMI MOUDY B. JUNE 19, 1912 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
APRIL 27, 1940 TO MARION A. HARDWICK B. MAR. 7, 1907 IN HENDERSON
COUNTY, KY.

ALFRED RICHARD MOUDY B. DEC. 31, 1917 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND. D. JAN. 5, 1918. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY,
ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES WALTER MOUDY B. APRIL 27, 1921 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND. M. ON MARCH 13, 1946 TO FLORELLA SHIMER B. JUNE 7,
1923 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 3

KENNETH CHARLES MOUDY B. FEB. 19, 1950 IN ROCHESTER, IND.

LAURENA RUTH MOUDY B. FEB. 20, 1953 IN TUSCON, ARIZ.

QUENTIN JAMES MOUDY B. APRIL 13, 1955 IN TUSCON, ARIZ.

JEROME AND FITELIA GLOYD FAMILY

MARRIAGES

SHARON DIAN GLOYD TO RONALD WAYNE HOOT, JUNE 24, 1972.
LAURENA RUTH MOUDY TO STEPHEN CUMBERLAND, MARCH 23, 1973
JAMES DAVID PUSEY TO DEBRA L. BRUBAKER, AUGUST 3, 1974.
KENNETH CHARLES MOUDY TO LINDA RENAE WITTE, SEPTEMBER 17, 1977.

BIRTHS

MATTHEW DAVID GLOYD B. SEPTEMBER 16, 1972 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. TRAVIS GLOYD.
JUSTIN GLOYD B. DECEMBER 10, 1972 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL GLOYD.
LORISSA ANN HOOT B. MARCH 20, 1973, NATHAN MATTHEW HOOT B. JANUARY 19, 1975
AND JASON MICHAEL HOOT B. MAY 16, 1976 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. RONALD
W. HOOT.
CRAIG MICHAEL CUMBERLAND B. JANUARY 8, 1974, CARA CUMBERLAND B. JUNE 10, 1976
AND JASON CUMBERLAND B. JUNE 19, 1978 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN
CUMBERLAND.
CHELSEA LYNN GLOYD B. FEBRUARY 14, 1974 AND CALEB MOSS GLOYD B. SEPTEMBER 18,
1976 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL GLOYD.
ALISA MAE GLOYD B. MARCH 12, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. DENNIS GLOYD.
DANIEL JAMES MOUDY B. MARCH 25, 1980 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. KENNETH C. MOUDY.

DEATHS

JUSTIN GLOYD D. DECEMBER 11, 1972.

CORRECTION

Pg. 54 OF FITCH FAMILY HISTORY

ADD - WENDELL JOHN MOUDY
CLAYTON WAYNE MOUDY
DEWAYNE KEITH MOUDY



CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR and FRANCELIA FITCH FAIR

THEIR CHILDREN

EDWARD DELONG FAIR (RIGHT)

VALLETTA FAIR BRESSLER (CENTER)

JAMES HENRY FAIR (LEFT)

FRANCELIA FITCH B. APR. 10, 1851 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. DEC. 29, 1937. B.P. ALDEN CEMETERY, ALDEN, KAN. M. NOVEMBER 26, 1874
TO CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR B. DEC. 9, 1843 IN DEKALB COUNTY, IND. D. MAR. 26,
1921. B.P. ALDEN CEMETERY, ALDEN, KAN. ISSUE 3

VALETTA FAIR B. FEB. 16, 1876 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. FEB. 7, 1961.
B.P. WAMEGO, KAN.
M. MAY 10, 1897 TO ALEXANDER HODGE BRESSLER B. AUG. 29, 1872 IN

PARIS, ILL. D. SEPT. 18, 1951. B.P. WAMEGO, KAN. ISSUE 3

PALMER FAIR BRESSLER B. APR. 2, 1898 IN RAYMOND, KAN. FIRST
MARRIAGE ON AUG. 6, 1918 TO LILLIAN GUTHRIE. DIVORCED. SECOND
MARRIAGE ON FEB. 27, 1927 TO NINA RUTH BURGESS B. APR. 27, 1901
IN RANDOLPH, KAN.

GRACE ELIZABETH BRESSLER B. JAN. 3, 1904 IN RAYMOND, KAN.
M. JUNE 1, 1927 TO JOHN FRENCH GARTNER B. APR. 22, 1904 AT
JUNCTION CITY, KAN. D. FEB. 28, 1970 AT SALINA, KAN. B.P.
FAIRHAVEN CEMETERY, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA. ISSUE 3
GRACE ELIZABETH BRESSLER SECOND MARRIAGE ON SEPT. 12, 1971 TO
NORMAN LOSEY ROBERTS B. AUG. 31, 1901 AT CHANUTE, KAN.

JOAN MARYETTA GARTNER B. NOV. 26, 1930 AT LONG BEACH, CAL.
M. ON DEC. 26, 1954 TO JAMES MERRELL MACON B. OCT. 19, 1923
AT LOS ANGELES, CAL. ISSUE 3

JOHN DAVID MACON B. OCT. 27, 1957.

SUSAN ELIZABETH MACON B. AUG. 17, 1960

NANCY ANN MACON B. DEC. 26, 1961

FRANCELIA KAY GARTNER B. JAN. 1, 1937 IN LONG BEACH, CAL.
M. ON JULY 20, 1958 TO MERLE MELVIN WHITE B. SEPT. 7, 1937
AT LOS ANGELES, CAL. ISSUE 1

SARAH ELIZABETH WHITE B. JULY 10, 1968 AT ORANGE, CAL.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH ELIZABETH GARTNER B. JULY 20, 1938 IN LONG BEACH,
CAL. M. ON NOV. 18, 1962 TO VINCENT ANDREW CHERENE
B. JAN. 29, 1937 AT MIDLAND, PA.

ELIZABETH ANN CHERENE (ADOPTED) B. APR. 20, 1967.

ANGELA NOEL CHERENE (ADOPTED) B. OCT. 9, 1968

JASON CARLISLE CHERENE (ADOPTED) B. MAY 31, 1969.

CHRISTIAN NORMAN BRESSLER B. NOV. 26, 1905 AT RAYMOND, KAN.

D. JULY 6, 1961. M. ON JULY 5, 1927 TO DOROTHY STEVENSON

B. APR. 25, 1905 IN OBERLIN, KAN. ISSUE 2

NORMAN STEVENSON BRESSLER B. MAR. 6, 1936 AT SALINA, KAN.

M. ON JUNE 4, 1958 TO LAURA LYON B.

DIVORCED NOV. 1, 1968

ELIZABETH LYNN BRESSLER B. NOV. 2, 1958.

PHILLIP NORMAN BRESSLER B. JUNE 4, 1961.

MOLLY ANN BRESSLER B. FEB. 3, 1965.

NORMAN STEVENSON BRESSLER SECOND MARRIAGE ON APR. 25, 1969

TO CARLA ANN METZ, B. MAR. 22, 1942, SALINA, KAN. ISSUE 1

AMY IOLYNE BRESSLER B. DEC. 28, 1969.

SAM ERIC B. NOV. 3, 1965. SON OF CARLA ANN METZ IN

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE.

JAMES ALEXANDER BRESSLER B. JULY 3, 1945 IN WAMEGO, KAN.

DOROTHY LUCILE BRESSLER (ADOPTED BY VALETTA FAIR BRESSLER)

JAN. 13, 1930. FIRST M. TO HENRY GEORGE HURTIG, JR.. DIVORCED

OCT. 9, 1949, WEST MORELAND, KAN. ISSUE 2

HENRY GEORGE HURTIG, III B. DEC. 31, 1942 AT MANHATTAN, KAN.

PALMER BRESSLER HURTIG B. OCT. 2, 1946 AT WAMEGO, KAN.

DOROTHY LUCILE BRESSLER SECOND M. ON OCT. 17, 1952 TO DONALD

JAMES SCULLY. ISSUE 2

(CONTINUED)

JAMES SCULLY

PALMER B. SCULLY

JAMES HENRY FAIR B. JAN. 6, 1881 AT RAYMOND, KAN. D. FEB. 28, 1964.
B.P. ALDEN, KAN.

M. ON NOV. 1, 1911 TO NINA MAE ALTLAND B. FEB. 14, 1884 AT DORRANCE,

KAN. ISSUE 1

SARAH BARBARA FAIR B. SEPT. 23, 1917 IN ALDEN, KAN. M. APR. 12,
1944 TO ALAN RAY SLEEPER B. SEPT. 4, 1917 IN IOLA, KAN. ISSUE 2

BARBARA ANN SLEEPER B. JAN. 16, 1946 IN ALDEN, KAN.

JAMES ALAN SLEEPER B. NOV. 2, 1948 IN ALDEN, KAN.

EDWARD DE LONG FAIR B. NOV. 2, 1886 IN ALDEN, KAN. D. JUNE 18, 1949.

B.P. ALDEN CEMETERY, ALDEN KAN. M. ON MAY 23, 1911 TO RUIE ELLA

VINCENT B. JULY 12, 1890 AT ALDEN, KAN. D. MAR. 16, 1960. B.P. ALDEN
CEMETERY, ALDEN, KAN. ISSUE 2

CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR, JR. B. JULY 28, 1912 AT ALDEN, KAN. M. ON
FEB. 26, 1934 TO GLENNA MARIE KUHN B. APR. 9, 1913 AT PRETTY

PRAIRIE, KAN. ISSUE 2

CHARLES EDWARD FAIR B. APR. 14, 1939. M. ON

TO SHIRLEY PEARL PARTINGTON B. OCT. 5, 1942. ISSUE 3

ELLEN PEARL FAIR B. JUNE 6, 1967.

JULIE MARIE FAIR B. SEPT. 2, 1968.

SARAH ELIZABETH FAIR B. JUNE 9, 1971.

NORMA JEAN FAIR B. APR. 18, 1942 AT HUTCHINSON, KAN.

NINA EVANGELINE FAIR B. JAN. 12, 1923 AT ALDEN, KAN. M. ON

JUNE 6, 1948 TO ROSCOE WEBSTER WALL B. MAR. 5, 1911 IN ATHENS, TEX.

ISSUE 4

SUZETTE WALL B. JUNE 6, 1949 IN HUTCHINSON, KAN.

PATRICIA ROXANNE WALL B. JUNE 24, 1951 IN HUTCHINSON, KAN.

WILLIAM EDWARD WALL B. JULY 25, 1954 AT HOXIE, KAN.

JANE ELIZABETH WALL B. OCT. 22, 1958.

FRANCELIA FAIR FAMILY

MARRIAGES

BARBARA ANN SLEEPER to WILLIAM E. HULSIZER, MAY 8, 1974.

BIRTHS

CHARLES NORMAN FAIR B. FEBRUARY 14, 1975 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES
EDWARD FAIR.

NOAH ALAN HULSIZER B. DECEMBER 13, 1975 AND EVA HULSIZER B. APRIL 30, 1977
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM E. HULSIZER.

DEATHS

DOROTHY LUCILLE BRESSLER D. MAY 11, 1973.

CHARLES NORMAN FAIR D. FEBRUARY 28, 1975.

PALMER FAIR BRESSLER D. APRIL 2, 1976.

NORMAN LOSEY ROBERTS D. APRIL 28, 1978.

CORRECTIONS

Pg. 58 MARRIAGE DATE OF CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR JR. AND GLENNA MARIE KUHN
SHOULD READ FEBRUARY 21, 1935.

Pg. 55 EDWARD DELONG FAIR IS ON THE LEFT. JAMES HENRY FAIR IS ON THE RIGHT.



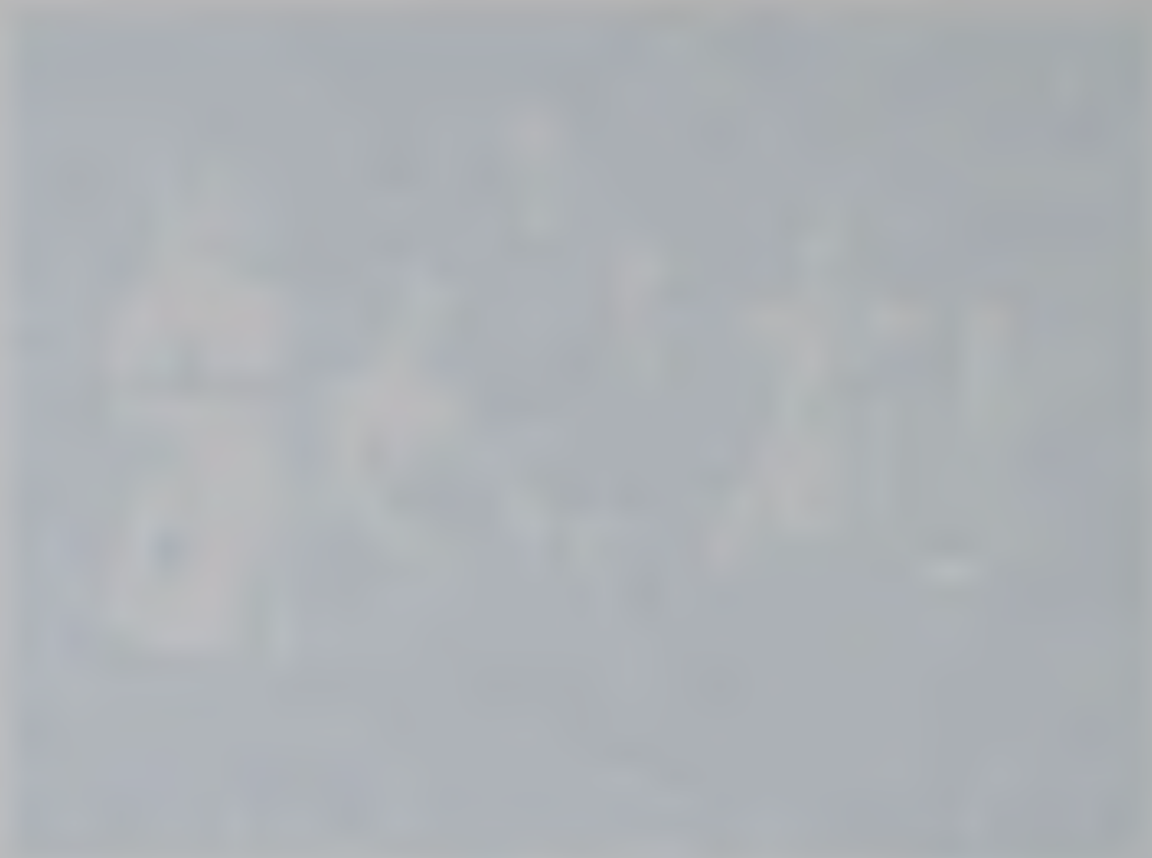
HARVEY FITCH FAMILY

FRONT ROW (SEATED)

AUDREY, EARNEST, HARVEY and ETTA

BACK ROW (STANDING)

NINA, PARKER, CECIL



HARVEY FITCH B. JULY 15, 1853 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. SEPT. 13, 1948. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
AUG. 30, 1879 TO PERMELIA ETTA PARKER B. APRIL 15, 1859 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND.

D. AUG. 10, 1942. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 5

AUDREY ESTELLA FITCH B. AUG. 19, 1882 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. DEC. 19, 1958. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON FEB. 6, 1907 TO GEORGE SOLOMON HURSH B. FEB. 6, 1882 NEAR FORT
WAYNE, IND. D. 1962. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

NINA LUELLA FITCH B. AUG. 16, 1884 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

D. AUG. 29, 1969. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON OCT. 24, 1910 TO HENRY ALBERT EMRICK B. DEC. 20, 1872 NEAR LEO,

IND. D. FEB. 16, 1942. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

ISSUE 1

ALICE EMRICK B. FEB. 8, 1916 AT FORT WAYNE, IND. D. FEB. 23, 1916.

B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

JOHN PARKER FITCH B. MARCH 22, 1886 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,

IND. M. ON JAN. 11, 1910 TO MARY ALMA URBINE B. AUG. 14, 1885 IN

PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. D. AUG. 3, 1967. B.P. AVILLA

CATHOLIC CEMETERY, AVILLA, IND. ISSUE 2

MARY LOUISE FITCH B. MARCH 31, 1911 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND.

ETTA PHILOMENA FITCH B. NOV. 30, 1915 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN
COUNTY, IND.

CECIL FITCH B. JUNE 23, 1892 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON JUNE 3, 1914 TO VERNIE EDGAR McCOMB B. DEC. 14, 1892 AT LEO, IND.

D. JULY 28, 1963. B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 8

MARJORIE ETTA McCOMB B. JULY 13, 1915 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON

AUG. 7, 1937 TO LOREN WOODROW FRECK B. DEC. 31, 1913 IN JEFFERSON

(CONTINUED)

TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 2

NANCY JANE FRECK B. Nov. 22, 1939 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JULY 25, 1959 TO FRANKLIN HUBER B. AUG. 18, 1933 AT FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 2

JILL RENEE HUBER B. APRIL 2, 1963 AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.

SCOTT FRANKLIN HUBER B. JAN. 6, 1966 AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

THOMAS FRECK B. AUG. 27, 1946 AT FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 9, 1969 TO REBECCA RAUB B. FEB. 23, 1946.

AUDREY MARSCHELLE McCOMB B. JAN. 29, 1917 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON
AUG. 12, 1939 TO WALTER BRENTON SLOFFER B. DEC. 10, 1915 NEAR
HUNTERTOWN, IND. ISSUE 6

CHARLOTTE ANN SLOFFER B. MAY 9, 1941 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

M. ON 1959 TO THOMAS TOM B. MARCH 15, 1941 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
ISSUE 4

KIMBERLY JO TOM B. MAY 3, 1959 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

KARMA BETH TOM B. OCT. 23, 1961 IN MUNCIE, IND.

TIMOTHY EDWARD TOM B. JUNE 18, 1963 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

MICHAEL THOMAS TOM B. AUG. 13, 1967 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

DANFORD RUSSELL SLOFFER B. JAN. 15, 1944 AT VALPARISO, IND.

M. ON NOV. 2, 1963 TO ANITA DEVNY B. OCT. 25, 1945 AT
KENDALLVILLE, IND. ISSUE 3

TINA MARIE SLOFFER B. SEPT. 15, 1964 AT FORT WAYNE, IND.

BRENT RUSSELL SLOFFER B. JAN. 5, 1966 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

NEAL ANDREW SLOFFER B. SEPT. 10, 1970 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

SAMUEL WALTER SLOFFER B. JUNE 10, 1946 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

M. ON MARCH 29, 1969 TO LINDA WILSON B. DEC. 25, 1947 AT
MADISON, IND.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIP CARL SLOFFER B. NOV. 12, 1949 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
M. ON DEC. 26, 1970 TO NANCY B. MOORE. ISSUE 1

CHRISTOPHER CARL SLOFFER B. MARCH 20, 1971 IN FORT WAYNE,
IND.

PAUL EUGENE SLOFFER B. AUG. 11, 1951 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

DAVID ALLEN SLOFFER B. MAY 26, 1954 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

BARBARA ANN McCOMB B. SEPT. 19, 1918 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 19, 1936 TO RUSSELL EDWARD KELHAM B. SEPT. 19, 1911 NEAR
GARRETT, IND. ISSUE 6

SANDRA LOU KELHAM B. SEPT. 15, 1939 NEAR ANGOLA, IND. M. ON
JAN. 4, 1956 TO KENNETH LE ROY WALTERS B. AUG. 15, 1935 IN
DEKALB COUNTY, IND. DIVORCED. ISSUE 1

MICHAEL DEAN WALTERS B. SEPT. 9, 1962 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND.
SALLY LOUISE KELHAM B. JULY 24, 1941 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
JUNE 4, 1960 TO TED DEAN THRUSH B. FEB. 24, 1940 IN DEKALB
COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 4

REBECCA LOUISE THRUSH B. DEC. 15, 1961 AT GARRETT, IND.

JEFFREY DEAN THRUSH B. FEB. 10, 1964 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND.

KEVIN EUGENE THRUSH B. MAY 29, 1966 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND.

SHARI LYNN THRUSH B. AUG. 16, 1971 AT KENDALLVILLE, IND.

JAMES MORTON KELHAM B. JUNE 23, 1944 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 28, 1963 TO VIRGINIA ELAINE LEECH B. AUG. 25, 1944 AT
GARRETT, IND. ISSUE 2

ANDREA KAY KELHAM B. APRIL 16, 1964 AT GARRETT, IND.

JANA LEE KELHAM B. MARCH 20, 1968 AT AUBURN, IND.

EDWARD LEE KELHAM B. JUNE 5, 1946 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
JULY 1971 TO DEBORAH KAY HILLS B. JAN. 17, 1948 AT WINSLOW, ARIZ.

(CONTINUED)

ALICE JANE KELHAM B. AUG. 28, 1948 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
APRIL 12, 1969 TO KENNETH EUGENE YINGLING B. MARCH 18, 1946
AT KENDALLVILLE, IND. ISSUE 1

KEITH EUGENE YINGLING B. JAN. 7, 1971 AT AUBURN, IND.

KATHY ANN KELHAM B. SEPT. 19, 1957 AT GARRETT, IND.

PHYLLIS RUTH McCOMB B. SEPT. 9, 1920 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON
AUG. 12, 1939 TO FRANCIS EDWARD BROWN B. DEC. 13, 1913 IN WYMORE,
NEB. ISSUE 6

ORMIN EDWARD BROWN B. DEC. 24, 1941 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

TRUMIN PHILLIP BROWN B. OCT. 17, 1944 AT GARRETT, IND. M. ON
DEC. 12, 1970 TO DEBORAH MARIE RHODES B. DEC. 19, 1944 AT
URBANA, ILL.

TERRILL LYNN BROWN B. OCT. 14, 1948 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JULY 31, 1971 TO BRENDA SUE BRYAN B. MARCH 28, 1949 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND.

ANNETTA LUCILE BROWN B. DEC. 2, 1950 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. ON JULY 24, 1971 TO MIKEL OREN ROPP III, B. DEC. 31, 1946
IN INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

DARRELL EDGAR BROWN B. OCT. 17, 1955 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ANGELA RUTH BROWN B. DEC. 17, 1956 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

DANFORD MAURICE McCOMB B. FEB. 21, 1922 AT HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON
MAY 9, 1942 TO BETTY MAY FRASIER B. MAY 9, 1922. D. SEPT. 9, 1958.
B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 4

LINDA LOU McCOMB B. SEPT. 19, 1944 AT SANTIAGO, CAL. M. ON
AUG. 17, 1963 TO JERRY W. ZIRKLE B. JULY 14, 1944 IN HUNTINGTON,
IND. ISSUE 2

GREGORY SCOTT ZIRKLE B. NOV. 14, 1963 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

MECHALLE JOAN ZIRKEL B. NOV. 14, 1962 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL SUE McCOMB B. FEB. 21, 1946 AT SANTA ANNA, CAL. M. ON
Nov. 7, 1964 TO JAMES H. GREEN B. JAN. 31, 1944 IN GREEN
TOWNSHIP, NOBLE COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 3

JAMES CHRISTOPHER GREEN B. APRIL 24, 1965 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

MATTHEW JOHN GREEN B. Nov. 7, 1968 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ANGELA MAY GREEN B. Nov. 27, 1971 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

TEDDY LEE McCOMB B. DEC. 20, 1948 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JAN. 20, 1968 TO FRANCES SUE MANNIX B. SEPT. 16, 1949 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 2

DAVID FRANCIS McCOMB B. SEPT. 23, 1968 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

MOLLIE ANN McCOMB B. APRIL 14, 1971 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

JULIA ANN McCOMB B. JAN. 3, 1955 IN

RUSSELL KENNETH McCOMB B. SEPT. 26, 1923 IN HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON
SEPT. 7, 1946 TO JUANITA SCHEEAN B. MAY 26, 1923 AT BATTLEGROUND,
IND. ISSUE 4

RUSSELL KENNETH McCOMB, JR. B. APRIL 11, 1949 IN LAFAYETTE, IND.

ROBERT DEAN McCOMB B. FEB. 27, 1951.

JANICE MARIE McCOMB B. DEC. 2, 1953 IN LAFAYETTE, IND.

JAY McCOMB B. JULY 3, 1965.

DOROTHY LUELLA McCOMB B. FEB. 28, 1925 IN HUNTERTOWN, IND. M. ON
JULY 19, 1947 TO JACK EDWARD LUCAS B. NOV. 25, 1925. ISSUE 2

WILLIAM THOMAS LUCAS B. APRIL 27, 1948 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

JACKIE KAY LUCAS B. FEB. 17, 1951. M. ON DEC. 18, 1971 TO

STEPHAN LEE GAFF B. FEB. 23, 1949 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

CLEO FITCH B. Nov. 7, 1894 NEAR HUNTERTOWN, IND. D. JAN. 6, 1895.
B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

EARNEST HARVEY FITCH B. JUNE 27, 1900 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. JAN. 25, 1969. B.P. CIRCLE HILL CEMETERY, ANGOLA, IND. M. ON

(CONTINUED)

OCT. 2, 1919 TO BERNICE LOUISE STRAYER B. JULY 3, 1898 AT CLEAR LAKE,
IND. ISSUE 4

RICHARD WALTER FITCH B. MARCH 20, 1921 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
MAY 18, 1942 TO PHYLLIS PULVER B. AUG. 10, 1924 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP,
ALLEN COUNTY, IND. ISSUE 8

JEAN MARIE FITCH B. JAN. 29, 1942 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
AUG. 3, 1963 TO DANIEL WILLIAM McCREA B. OCT. 30, 1941 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 3

BRIAN DANIEL McCREA B. MARCH 4, 1964 IN GARRETT, IND.

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM McCREA B. JULY 7, 1965 IN GARRETT, IND.

SHANNON MICHAEL McCREA B. AUG. 13, 1970 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ETTA ANN FITCH B. JULY 14, 1943 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
MAY 16, 1970 TO JOSEPH DALE GELLER B. MARCH 3, 1944.

MICHAEL RICHARD FITCH B. MAY 26, 1945 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
NOV. 13, 1971 TO CYNTHIA ANN MURRAY B. JULY 19, 1951 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND.

PATRICIA LOUISE FITCH B. JULY 21, 1947 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
M. ON AUG. 19, 1967 TO MICHAEL RAY DOWNS B. NOV. 3, 1946 IN
FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

NICHOLAS MICHAEL DOWNS B. MAY 27, 1969 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

PAMELA SUE FITCH B. OCT. 25, 1948 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND. M. ON
MAY 24, 1969 TO KENNETH DALE ZORGER B. SEPT. 15, 1946 IN FORT
WAYNE, IND.

RICHARD WALTER FITCH B. NOV. 25, 1952 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

LAURENCE RAY FITCH B. AUG. 15, 1954 IN ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

SARAH SUZANNE FITCH B. MAY 26, 1959 IN AUBURN, IND.

WILLIAM HARVEY FITCH B. MARCH 1, 1923 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
FEB. 12, 1949 TO PHYLLIS CORAL KEIBLER B. DEC. 15, 1926 IN LOS ANGELES,
CAL.

(CONTINUED)

JANET LOUISE FITCH B. SEPT. 10, 1956.

JOHN FITCH B. JUNE 1, 1959.

ALICE SUZANNE FITCH B. JULY 8, 1924 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. M. ON AUG. 9, 1953 TO TODD HENRY ENYEART B. NOV. 25, 1928 AT
LIBERTY MILLS, IND. ISSUE 2

MARK WILLIAM ENYEART B. SEPT. 5, 1954, IN MOSCOW, IDAHO.

VICKY SUSAN ENYEART B. MARCH 17, 1958 IN PORTLAND, ORE.

CLEO FITCH B. OCT. 7, 1927 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. D. MARCH 13, 1928.
B.P. PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

HARVEY FITCH FAMILY

MARRIAGES

ORMIN EDWARD BROWN to CANDACE SUE MALONEY, JULY 1, 1972.
RICHARD WALTER FITCH to ELAINE HOOT, OCTOBER 19, 1972.
SANDRA LOU KELHAM (2ND MARRIAGE) to RICHARD JAMES GATZA, AUGUST 4, 1973.
WILLIAM THOMAS LUCAS to PAULA KNIGHT, SEPTEMBER, 1973.
JULIA ANN McCOMB to WILLIAM CARL MILLER, APRIL 27, 1974.
DANFORD McCOMB to LOIS SKINNER, AUGUST 6, 1975.
DAVID ALLEN SLOFFER to VANESSA HINES, JULY 16, 1976.
JANICE MARIE McCOMB to JOE SMITH, OCTOBER 21, 1977.
EDWARD LEE KELHAM to LINDA LEE WATKINS, MAY 13, 1978.
KATHY ANN KELHAM to DANIEL EUGENE DEGITZ, JULY 1, 1978.
ROBERT DEAN McCOMB to SARA McQUADE, JANUARY 27, 1979.
LAURENCE RAY FITCH to KAREN SUE MALONEY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1979.

BIRTHS

JASON FITCH GELLER B. JUNE 5, 1972 AND SAMUEL JOSEPH GELLER B. JUNE 25, 1974
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH GELLER
DUSTIN PATRICK DOWNS B. JANUARY 12, 1973 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL R. DOWNS.
MICHELLE LYNN FITCH B. MARCH 22, 1973 AND LUKE RICHARD FITCH B. AUGUST 14,
1975 AND KURT LEE FITCH B. MAY 4, 1977 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. RICHARD
W. FITCH.
ALLEN MICHAEL FITCH B. MARCH 26, 1973 AND EMILY MURRAY FITCH B. MARCH 22,
1976 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL R. FITCH.
JOEL LYNN ZORGER B. JUNE 13, 1973 AND AMY MARIE ZORGER B. JUNE 21, 1976
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. KENNETH D. ZORGER.
KRISTI ANN YINGLING B. SEPTEMBER 27, 1973 AND KERRY EDWARD YINGLING B.
NOVEMBER 20, 1975 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. KENNETH YINGLING.
JACKIE LYNN McCOMB B. AUGUST 6, 1973 AND JEFFREY KENNETH McCOMB B. SEPTEMBER 24,
1976 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. RUSSELL K. McCOMB, JR.
MARINA DAWN McCOMB B. AUGUST 6, 1973 ISSUE OF DEAN McCOMB (1ST MARRIAGE).
TY SAMUEL SLOFFER B. MAY 26, 1974 AND MONICA RAE SLOFFER B. AUGUST 21, 1976
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL SLOFFER.
SARAH ELIZABETH FRECK B. JULY 21, 1974 AND ANDREW ADAM FRECH B. MAY 16, 1976
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. THOMAS L. FRECK.
JENNIFER CHRISTINE LUCAS B. SEPTEMBER 30, 1974 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM
THOMAS LUCAS.
ANGELA MARIE GAFF B. JANUARY 20, 1975 ISSUE OF JACKIE KAY LUCAS GAFF.

HARVEY FITCH FAMILY

BIRTHS (CONT'D.)

AMANDA LUCILLE ROPP B. OCTOBER 1, 1975 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. MIKEL O. ROPP III.

ELIZABETH ANN GATZA B. OCTOBER 21, 1975 AND MARY CATHERINE GATZA B. JULY 2,
1977 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. RICHARD GATZA.

JILL MARIE LUCAS B. OCTOBER 1976 AND LAURA ANN LUCAS B. SEPTEMBER 1978
ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS. WM. THOMAS LUCAS.

MOLLY MARSCELLE SLOFFER B. MAY 28, 1976, NICHOLAS PAUL SLOFFER B. MARCH 30,
1978 AND TIMOTHY JOHN SLOFFER B. JUNE 28, 1979 ISSUES OF MR. AND MRS.
PAUL SLOFFER.

JAMES RUSSELL DEGITZ B. AUGUST 18, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. DANIEL E. DEGITZ.

DEATHS

JOHN PARKER FITCH D. APRIL 14, 1974.

MARJORIE McCOMB FRECK D. MAY 11, 1976.



SARAH ELIZABETH FITCH STRATTON attended the Fitch school, built by her father, a seminary and Valparaiso University. Following her graduation, she taught school in Allen County. In 1881, she was married to Judge Irvin Franklin Stratton. They lived in Wichita, Kansas. Her husband was in California making preparations to move his family to a new home there when he was accidentally killed by a train.

Mrs. Stratton returned to Fort Wayne with her four children in 1902. After 1930 she lived in Parkersburg, W. Va. and Lauderdale by the Sea in Florida.

She was the last survivor of her generation and lived to be 103 years old.



SARAH ELIZABETH FITCH B. MAR. 29, 1855 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. AUG. 4, 1958. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND.
M. DEC. 28, 1881 TO IRVIN FRANKLIN STRATTON B. APR. 20, 1848 NEAR LAGRO,
WABASH COUNTY, IND. D. APR. 2, 1902. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT
WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 4

LEANDER ELLIOTT STRATTON B. APR. 13, 1885 AT FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JAN. 17, 1910 TO EDNA BELL BEAVER B. AUG. 1, 1890. D. AUG. 18, 1917.
B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 3

MARK ELLIOTT STRATTON B. OCT. 19, 1912 AT GARY, IND.

JANETTE STRATTON B. JULY 3, 1914 AT GARY, IND. D. MAR. 14, 1915.
B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND.

GENE STRATTON B. NOV. 27, 1916 AT GARY, IND. ADOPTED SEPT. 1917
BY MR. AND MRS. GEORGE D. EMERICK OF GARY, IND. D. NOV. 3, 1921.

LEANDER ELLIOTT STRATTON SECOND MARRIAGE ON APR. 2, 1919 TO CLARA
KOLSTAD B. NOV. 17, 1883 AT WILMOT, S. DAKOTA. ISSUE 1

DONALD LEE STRATTON B. MAR. 31, 1923 AT FRAZIER, MONT. M. ON
JUNE 21, 1945 TO DOROTHY MAY CALFEE B. SEPT. 7, 1926 AT FRAZIER,
MONT. ISSUE 3

JOHN L. STRATTON B. MAR. 27, 1946 AT GLASGOW, MONT. M. ON
JUNE 12, 1970 TO GAIL DIXIE CARLSON B. AUG. 30, 1946 AT
BISMARCK, N. DAKOTA.

CHERYL KAY STRATTON B. JULY 21, 1949 AT GLASGOW, MONT.

DONOVAN KAY STRATTON B. JULY 23, 1969 AT BILLINGS, MONT.

DAWN GAYE STRATTON B. FEB. 28, 1957 AT SAN BERNARDINO, CAL.

HAROLD FITCH STRATTON B. JAN. 31, 1888 AT WICHITA, KAN.

HELEN STRATTON B. DEC. 16, 1892 AT WICHITA, KAN. M. ON NOV. 24, 1911
TO CLAUDE HENRY BOWLBY B. FEB. 11, 1891 AT DEFIANCE, OHIO. ISSUE 4

RUTH HELEN BOWLBY B. NOV. 29, 1912 AT GARY, IND. M. ON MAY 27,

(CONTINUED)

1935 TO CARL EDWARD SCHAFER B. OCT. 25, 1905 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

ISSUE 2

CARL EDWARD SCHAFER II B. OCT. 15, 1941 IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

M. ON DEC. 14, 1963 TO JOAN LOUISE GOSHERT B. MAY 15, 1941

IN FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 1

JENNIFER JO SCHAFER B. NOV. 24, 1970 AT FORT ORD, CAL.

RICHARD LEE SCHAFER B. APR. 28, 1944 IN FT. WAYNE, IND.

ELIZABETH BOWLBY B. NOV. 15, 1913 AT LAPORTE, IND. M. NOV. 11,

1939 TO RAE CLARE NEWELL B. MAR. 11, IN FORT WAYNE, IND.

D. NOV. 21, 1964. B.P. GREENLAWN CEMETERY, FT. WAYNE, IND.

SARAH ELIZABETH NEWELL (ADOPTED) B. APR. 22, 1944 IN FORT

WAYNE, IND. M. ON SEPT. 26, 1970 TO AL RADSPILLER B. JAN.

17, 1941 IN MICHIGAN.

ELIZABETH BOWLBY SECOND MARRIAGE ON AUG. 16, 1969 TO JOHN DONALD

NEWELL B. JULY 13, 1911 IN FT. WAYNE, IND.

CLAUDIA BOWLBY B. FEB. 4, 1917 IN HAMMOND, IND. M. TO JAMES

CAMBELFORD MAC INNES B. JULY 26, 1916 AT HOOD RIVER, ORE. ISSUE 2

JAMES CAMBELFORD MAC INNES, JR. B. JULY 17, 1947 AT UPPER

DARBY, PA. M. ON SEPT. 6, 1969 TO PATRICIA JACQUELINE

MANTLER B. JAN. 14, 1947 IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY.

DOUGLAS BOWLBY MAC INNES B. NOV. 6, 1949 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MARY STRATTON BOWLBY B. SEPT. 17, 1923 AT FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON

OCT. 21, 1944 TO DAVIS MAXWELL SHRYER, JR. DIVORCED. ISSUE 4

MARY HELEN SHRYER B. APR. 10, 1948 AT CINCINNATI, OHIO. M. ON

SEPT. 4, 1971 TO THOMAS HANSEN BOAST B. AUG. 9, 1947 AT

AMES, IOWA.

ALICE BOWLBY SHRYER B. OCT. 2, 1950 AT ST. PAUL, MINN.

SARAH ELIZABETH SHRYER B. FEB. 27, 1953 IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

(CONTINUED)

DAVIS MAXWELL SHRYER, JR. B. AUG. 13, 1955 AT ST. PAUL, MINN.

MARY STRATTON BOWLBY SECOND MARRIAGE ON JUNE 24, 1966 TO DUNCAN

HALL BAIRD B. OCT. 26, 1917 IN NEW JERSEY.

MARGUERITE STRATTON B. MAR. 4, 1896 AT WICHITA, KAN. M. ON JULY 3,
1920 TO CLARENCE R. NOBLES B. JUNE 11, 1894 AT BUNCOMBE, ILL. D. AUG.
13, 1928. B.P. VIENNA, ILL. ISSUE 1

ROBERT STRATTON NOBLES B. FEB. 3, 1922 AT CHAMPAIGN, ILL. M. ON
MAY 26, 1956 TO MARY GERALDINE MC PHERSON B. JUNE 25, 1921 AT
PARKERSBURG, W. VIR.

ROBERT STRATTON NOBLES II B. JAN. 3, 1959 AT CHARLESTON,
W. VIR.

SARAH ELIZABETH STRATTON FAMILY

MARRIAGES

DOUGLAS B. MAC INNES TO JENNIFER JO REECE, OCTOBER 5, 1974.

BIRTHS

JEREMY ALAN STRATTON B. MARCH 18, 1972 ISSUE OF JOHN L. STRATTON.

JAMES DAVID JESCHKE B. DECEMBER 27, 1976 ISSUE OF CHERYL STRATTON JESCHKE.

ANDREW DOUGLAS MAC INNES B. FEBRUARY 22, 1975 AND KATHERINE ANNE MAC INNES

B. OCTOBER 18, 1977 ISSUES OF JAMES JR. AND PATTY MAC INNES.

HEATHER MAC INNES B. AUGUST 15, 1977 AND ERIN MAC INNES B. OCTOBER 18, 1979

ISSUES OF CAPT. DOUGLAS AND JENNIFER JO MAC INNES.

DEATHS

RUTH BOWLBY SCHAFER D. DECEMBER 18, 1973.

HAROLD F. STRATTON D. JANUARY 14, 1975.

CLARA STRATTON D. SEPTEMBER 13, 1976.

LEANDER STRATTON D. FEBRUARY 12, 1980.



ALLEN FITCH B. FEBRUARY 21, 1857 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
D. DEC. 19, 1952. B.P. ACACIA PARK CEMETERY MENDOTA, MINN. M. MAY 25,
1893 TO EMMA LEWILLIAN GREEN B. AUG. 16, 1860 AT AVON, WISC. D. JAN. 21,
1954. B.P. ACACIA PARK CEMETERY MENDOTA, MINN.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
TEL. (312) 937-0000

IDA ALICE FITCH B. OCT. 25, 1858 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
D. DEC. 14, 1945. B.P. NEW HAVEN I.O.O.F. CEMETERY, NEW HAVEN, IND.
M. OCT. 8, 1890 TO MELVILLE ARTHUR MASON B. MAR. 22, 1862 NEAR
MONROEVILLE, IND. D. FEB. 3, 1938. B.P. NEW HAVEN I.O.O.F. CEMETERY,
NEW HAVEN, IND.

EMELINE FITCH B. FEB. 1, 1861 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY, IND.
D. AUG. 28, 1949. B.P. NEW HAVEN I.O.O.F. CEMETERY, NEW HAVEN, IND.
M. ON DEC. 28, 1881 TO ALLEN MONROE HARTZELL B. AUG. 25, 1856 AT NEW
HAVEN, IND. D. JUNE 28, 1922. B.P. NEW HAVEN I.O.O.F. CEMETERY,
NEW HAVEN, IND.



DAVID FITCH FAMILY

HURSHEL

HELEN

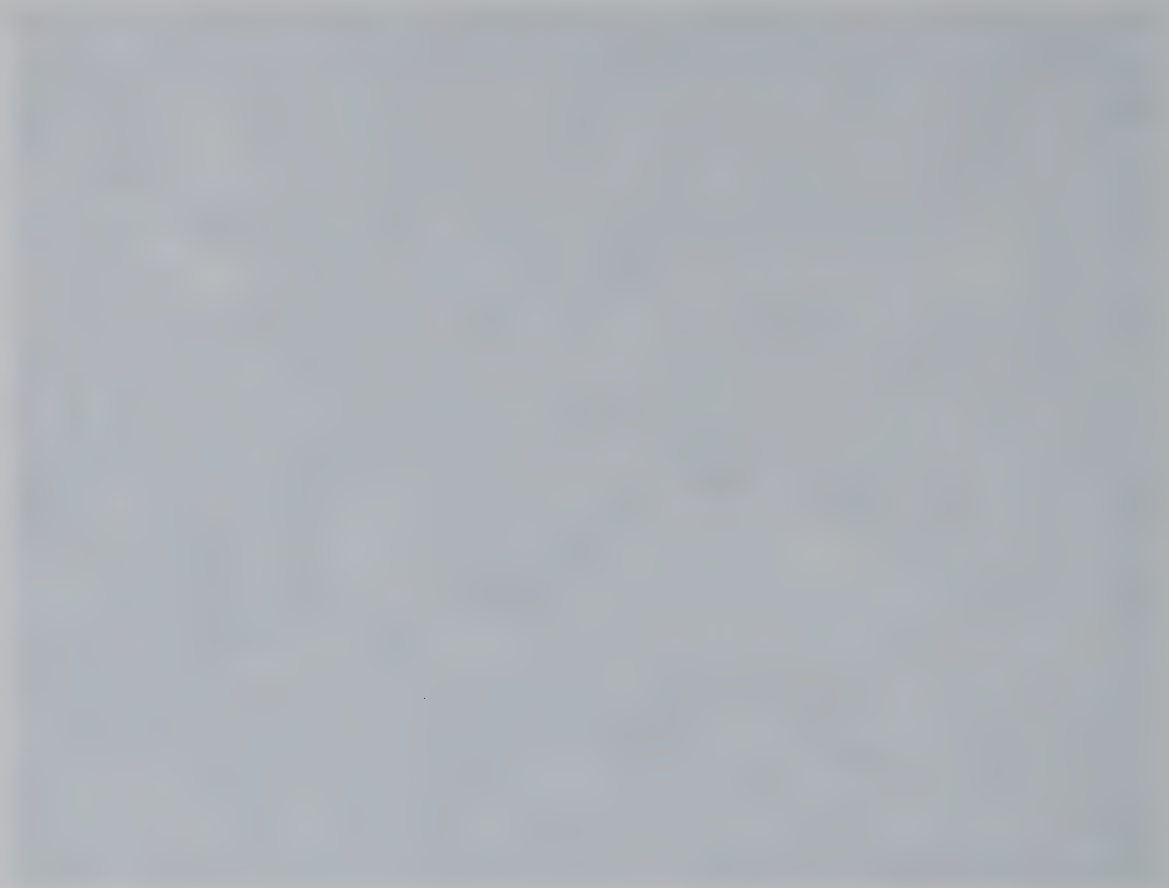
BURGESS

DAVID

EMMA

DAVID NATHANIEL FITCH, the youngest of the fifteen children of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, was born February 13, 1865. David Nathaniel Fitch attended school near Hometown and, also, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was graduated from the Chicago Veterinary College. He practiced veterinary medicine in Auburn, Indiana for many years. He was married on June 1st, 1887 to Emma Belle Stirlen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Stirlen of the County Line in Allen County.

David and Emma Belle Fitch lived their entire married life in Auburn, Indiana. Their family consisted of three children, two sons — Burgess and Hurshel, and a daughter, Helen.



Below the large rectangular area, there is a section of text that is also extremely faded and illegible. It appears to be a list or a series of lines of text, but the characters are too light to be discerned. The text is centered horizontally on the page.

DAVID NATHANIEL FITCH B. FEB. 13, 1865 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. APRIL 4, 1950. B.P. WOODLAWN CEMETERY, AUBURN, IND. M. ON JUNE 1,
1887 TO EMMA BELLE STIRLEN B. NOV. 2, 1866 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. DEC. 21, 1929. B.P. WOODLAWN CEMETERY, AUBURN, IND. ISSUE 3

JAMES BURGESS FITCH B. JUNE 26, 1888 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,
IND. D. FEB. 10, 1962. BURIAL, CREMATION. M. ON DEC. 26, 1912 TO
ALICE RAKESTRAW B. JULY 4, 1888 AT AUBURN, IND. ISSUE 3

WILLIAM DAVID FITCH B. NOV. 19, 1913 AT MANHATTAN, KANSAS. M. ON
AUG. 14, 1936 TO ELIZABETH CROUCH LAMPRECHT B. AUG. 25, 1913 AT
PENROSE, COLO. ISSUE 3

CHARLOTTE ANN FITCH B. JULY 8, 1940 AT KANSAS CITY, KAN.
M. ON OCT. 10, 1964 TO JOHN LYNN WUEPPER B. JAN. 9, 1939 AT
BAY CITY, MICH. ISSUE 1

JONATHAN TODD WUEPPER B. JULY 21, 1969 AT LANSING, MICH.
ALICE JEAN FITCH B. AUG. 21, 1943 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. M. ON
SEPT. 5, 1964 TO JERRY CHARLES DECK B. JULY 30, 1943 AT
UPSILANTI, MICH. ISSUE 2

SARAH ELIZABETH DECK B. APRIL 7, 1965 AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.
ANDREW CHARLES DECK B. MAY 30, 1968 AT MONTEREY, CAL.

FRANCIA FITCH B. NOV. 12, 1950 AT UPSILANTI, MICH.
MARJORIE JANE FITCH B. MARCH 3, 1917 AT MANHATTAN, KAN. M. ON
SEPT. 22, 1940 TO ROBERT HOWARD SHAFFER B. SEPT. 13, 1915 AT
DELPHI, IND. ISSUE 2

JAMES BURGESS SHAFFER B. MAY 6, 1945 AT BOSTON, MASS. M. JUNE 3,

(CONTINUED)

1967 TO LYNN EITZEN B. APRIL 23, 1946 AT CHICAGO, ILL.

BRUCE WILLIAM SHAFFER B. MAR. 19, 1947 AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.

D. MAR. 28, 1969 IN VIET NAM (CREMATION). M. JUNE 11, 1968

TO MARGARET WAID B. NOV. 17, 1946 AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

HELEN ELIZABETH FITCH B. MAY 21, 1919 AT MANHATTAN, KAN. M. ON

SEPT. 4, 1942 TO OTTO ADELBERT SILHA B. JAN. 15, 1919 AT CHICAGO,

ILL. ISSUE 3

STEPHEN FITCH SILHA B. APRIL 9, 1950 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

DAVID WILLIAM SILHA B. JUNE 29, 1953 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

ALICE BARBARA SILHA B. NOV. 29, 1955 AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

HURSHEL HUMES FITCH B. FEB. 9, 1890 IN PERRY TOWNSHIP, ALLEN COUNTY,

IND. D. OCT. 21, 1969. CREMATION. M. ON JULY 9, 1918 TO MABEL

CATHERINE SNYDER B. NOV. 26, 1892 AT GARRETT, IND. D. APRIL 25, 1960.

CREMATION. ISSUE 2

HURSHEL HUMES FITCH SECOND MARRIAGE ON FEB. 25, 1961 TO BESSIE GLAWE.

STEPHEN DAVID FITCH B. NOV. 11, 1919 IN GARRETT, IND. M. ON

FEB. 21, 1943 TO CATHERINE ELIZABETH GALLATIN B. OCT. 14, 1920 AT

GARRETT, IND. ISSUE 3

STEPHEN DAVID FITCH II B. OCT. 19, 1947 IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

JUDITH MABEL FITCH B. NOV. 9, 1952 IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

RICHARD GALLATIN FITCH B. JULY 21, 1954 IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

JAMES STERLING FITCH B. MAY 18, 1923 AT AUBURN, IND. M. ON DEC. 5,

1943 TO JOANNE LOIS MILLER B. MARCH 11, 1924 AT AUBURN, IND. ISSUE 2

JAMES STERLIN FITCH II B. FEB. 5, 1947 AT AUBURN, IND. M. ON

SEPT. 30, 1967 TO JACQUELINE DEE BROWNING B. MAR. 31, 1947

AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND. DIVORCED.

MARK WARREN FITCH B. APRIL 29, 1952 AT AUBURN, IND.

HELEN CHLOE FITCH B. JUNE 19, 1892 AT AUBURN, IND. M. ON JUNE 17, 1925

(CONTINUED)

TO RAYMOND TILDEN HAWVER B. MARCH 22, 1891 AT CLAVÉRACK, N.Y. D.
JUNE 24, 1968. B.P. LINDENWOOD CEMETERY, FORT WAYNE, IND. ISSUE 3
MARY BELLE HAWVER B. JUNE 13, 1927 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JUNE 10, 1950 TO L. DAVID BROGREN B. MAY 20, 1925 AT MUSKEGON,
MICH. ISSUE 3

CHRISTINA HOLMES BROGREN B. AUG. 6, 1951 AT DETROIT, MICH.

DAVID FITCH BROGREN B. MARCH 8, 1954 AT DETROIT, MICH.

SARA STIRLEN BROGREN B. APRIL 6, 1961 AT ROYAL OAK, MICH.

HELEN HOLMES HAWVER B. JULY 31, 1928 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
JULY 17, 1954 TO ROBERT F. FLORSHEIM B. SEPT. 9, 1928 IN GERMANY.

JANE STERLEN HAWVER B. JUNE 1, 1931 IN FORT WAYNE, IND. M. ON
FEB. 9, 1951 TO WILLIAM ELLIS LE VAY B. DEC. 12, 1930 AT DETROIT,
MICH. ISSUE 4

BENJAMIN HAWVER LE VAY B. MAR. 8, 1954 AT WABASH, IND.

WILLIAM BRADFORD LE VAY B. JAN. 24, 1955 AT WABASH, IND.

SALLIE SIMS LE VAY B. JULY 25, 1956 AT WABASH, IND.

DANIEL MYERS LE VAY B. MARCH 31, 1964 AT WABASH, IND.

DAVID FITCH FAMILY

MARRIAGES

STEPHEN DAVID FITCH to CAROL SMITH, August 21, 1971.
FRANCIA FITCH to DOUGLAS GEORGE BIRDSALL, August 26, 1972.
JAMES STERLING FITCH, JR. to PATRICIA ANN MILLER, MARCH 10, 1973.
CHRISTINA HOLMES BROGREN to JOHN BENJAMIN SCOFIELD IV, JUNE 19, 1975.
DAVID FITCH BROGREN to ELIZABETH JUNE DIXON, JULY 19, 1975.
SALLIE SIMS LE VAY to JOHN SCHLUNDT, NOVEMBER 26, 1975.
JUDITH MABEL FITCH to MICHAEL JOSEPH HOZA, OCTOBER 3, 1976.
ALICE BARBARA SILHA to JOHN EMILIE REIMAN III, JANUARY 6, 1979.

BIRTHS

CRAIG THOMAS WUEPPER B. JULY 10, 1972 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN L. WUEPPER.
EMILY LOUISE BIRDSALL B. MARCH 15, 1973 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. DOUGLAS G.
BIRDSALL.
DEREK BRUCE SHAFFER B. MAY 31, 1974 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES B. SHAFFER.
DAVID NATHANIEL FITCH B. JULY 25, 1974 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES S. FITCH JR.
KEVIN RICHARD FITCH B. OCTOBER 3, 1976 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN DAVID
FITCH.
NATHANIEL BIRDSALL B. MARCH 15, 1977 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. DOUGLAS G. BIRDSALL.
CHRISTOPHER JAMES FITCH B. AUGUST 1, 1977 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES S.
FITCH JR.
RYAN BROOKE SHAFFER B. OCTOBER 2, 1978 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES B. SHAFFER.
MICHAEL JONATHAN FITCH B. SEPTEMBER 1, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES S.
FITCH JR.
SARAH ELIZABETH FITCH B. AUGUST 2, 1979 ISSUE OF MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN D. FITCH.

DEATHS

BESSIE GRAWE FITCH D. 1973.
ALICE RAKESTRAW FITCH D. NOVEMBER 7, 1973.
DAVID WILLIAM SILHA D. JANUARY 16, 1974.

CORRECTION

P. 76 THE NAME OF MARK ALBERT SILHA WAS OMITTED FROM THE SILHA FAMILY
IN THE FITCH HISTORY BOOK. WE ARE TRULY SORRY MARK.

THE FITCH FAMILY STORY

The story of the local Fitch Family is fairly well known and documented in Allen County. There are actually 2 different lines of the Fitch family that have grown up in Allen County and I will expand on just one of them. Both connect back about a dozen generations in England when THOMAS FITCH and ANNE REEVE had a brood of children, some of which came to America to start a new life in the wilderness here.

Their home was just northeast of London in Essex County. Thomas was a wool merchant and a maker of woolen fabrics and they lived in Braintree, County Essex, England. His known ancestors went back to about 1400 where they were documented as they moved about. John Townsend Fitch of New England has written a wonderful book on the Fitch family in England called "Fitch Family History". It is still available. He has a web site.

As the story goes, one of the boys, JAMES FITCH, came to America in 1638. He had studied in England to be a minister and was just 16 when he made his way to America where he studied and worked under Rev. Hooker. Soon he was a full-fledged Puritan minister himself, lived in Connecticut, and has many descendants in America. John T. Fitch has also written on Rev. James Fitch and his descendants.

THOMAS FITCH, the father, died in England in 1632. JAMES came to America in 1638 and then in 1648 another son, NATHANIEL, died in England. It appears at that time that some of the other brothers came to America and brought their mother with them. We do not have an exact date for their arrival, but would assume it must have been around 1649-1650. Those coming were THOMAS, JR., SAMUEL and JOSEPH and their mother. JOSEPH had a well-known descendant in "STEAMBOAT BUILDER, JOHN FITCH". The mother lived with SAMUEL in Connecticut, and THOMAS went to the Norwalk, CT, area and helped to develop that settlement.

Our INDIANA (Allen Co.) NATHANIEL FITCH, came from Pennsylvania where his ancestors had been early settlers for 3 generations. The trick then became how to connect him to his ancestors, Thomas and Anne of England.

At first this local family thought that they had come from REV. JAMES FITCH and it has even been recorded in places that it was so. However, after much research, and the failure of J. T. Fitch to find it so, it appears that Nathaniel's family came to PA from CT and were most likely from the THOMAS FITCH line, who settled in Norwalk, CT.

Incidentally, the other Fitch family of Allen Co., that meets generations back, was and is from the Rev. James Fitch line and can find their history recorded in his books.

However this story is about NATHANIEL FITCH, blacksmith and farmer of northern Allen County. Back to the shores of Connecticut and to Thomas Fitch and his family.....

I will put here the line that seems proper for Nathaniel's genealogy and then expand a little on each generation of the family:

THOMAS FITCH 1612-1704 and Anne Stacie

Children: Thomas, JOHN, Ann, Mary and Sarah

JOHN FITCH (1642-1760) and Rebecca Lindall

Children: John, Rebecca, NATHANIEL, and Mary

NATHANIEL FITCH (1682-1743) and Elizabeth _____

Children: JOHN, Lindall, Elizabeth, Abigail, and Mary

JOHN FITCH (____ - 1748) and Elizabeth Beers

Children: Nathaniel, JOHN, Elizabeth and Susanna

JOHN FITCH (1737-1815) and probably Elizabeth Lockwood and 2nd wife, Mary

Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch died before or by 1784

Children: JOHN, JR., GIDEON, and SUSANNA

John also had a son, NATHANIEL, born 1782

John moved his family to Wyoming Co., PA about 1788

Do not know Mary's maiden name or when they were married

Do not know for sure if NATHANIEL, born 1782, was the son of Elizabeth Lockwood

Or 2nd wife, Mary

JOHN FITCH, JR. - - died of small pox in Norwalk in 1792

GIDEON FITCH - - settled early in Wyoming Co., PA

NATHANIEL FITCH, - - married Sarah Keeler, and settled early in Wyoming Co.,

NATHANIEL FITCH and Sarah Keeler had children:

Seymour, Giles, NATHANIEL, Morgan, Spencer, Abigail, John, Perry, Sarah, Nancy, Allen, Mary Polly

NATHANIEL, JR. son of NATHANIEL and Sarah Keeler came to Allen Co., IN

THOMAS FITCH 1612-1704 helped to settle Norwalk, CT about 1651. He was a local town leader and was prominent in all that was going on at the time. He had 2 sons and 3 daughters that came along with him from England. THOMAS, the eldest, and JOHN were the sons. Both stayed in Norwalk to raise their families.

Son, THOMAS's line was quite military and also down 4 generations produced a governor of the state of Connecticut. Son, JOHN FITCH married REBECCA LINDALL in Norwalk and raised his family there. He had sons, JOHN and NATHANIEL. (Here the story often gets tangled with all the John's)

JOHN FITCH, son of JOHN and REBECCA, married Lydia Bushnell and had

MATTHEW, THEOPHILUS, BUSHNELL, REBECCA, and LYDIA.

Also listed in some genealogies is a son by the name of JOHN, listed last but no dates

NATHANIEL FITCH, son of JOHN and REBECCA, had 3 wives and children by his first wife, ELIZABETH

Children were: JOHN, LINDALL, ELIZABETH, ABIGAIL and MARY

His 2nd (Sarah Seeley Frost) and 3rd (Anna Mallory) marriages were too late for any of these children

In the Norwalk records, there are several legal documents about JOHN FITCH and it is often hard to determine who was who. A lot of genealogists have assumed that the JOHN that we hear about in the legal documents was the son of JOHN and very little is mentioned about JOHN, son of NATHANIEL.

I have come to believe that this northern Indiana Fitch family is descended from JOHN FITCH, son of NATHANIEL FITCH. At this time I do not know what happened to John,

son of John. I do not know if he ever existed. I have never seen an official registration of his birth or any records that say he was the "son of John". All the other children have birthdates.

Some of the confusion is caused by using the term JOHN FITCH, JR in several of the documents which is often assumed to mean that his father had to be named John also, which apparently is not the case. Sometimes they were given the term JR because there was another by the same name at the same place, who was older and so to keep from confusing the two they put JR behind the name of the younger one. It is not a guarantee that John, Jr. always had a father by the name of John.

Another thing that has confused the issue was the two wills that were produced and recorded in the year of 1748 for John Fitch. It is fairly certain that the first (March) of them was JOHN FITCH who married ELIZABETH BEERS. He died early and left small children to be cared for. Since both are found in the Norwalk records together and just one number behind the other, I think it was assumed they were father and son. But I see no indication that it is so. We have John who married Lydia with a will dated 1748 but not proved until 1760 so not sure when the death actually occurred. And in his will, he lists no son by the name of John, nor grandchildren that might have belonged to a son John. He clearly names all his other children and what he is leaving them.

JOHN, son of NATHANIEL, married ELIZABETH BEERS and in his will we find he had sons, JOHN who was the oldest, NATHANIEL, and daughters, ELIZABETH and SUZANNA.

To confuse matters further, THEOPHILIS, son of JOHN and Lydia, also had a son by the name of JOHN FITCH. He is fairly easy to trace though in the records.

Will list the line again that I believe is correct:

- ✓ THOMAS FITCH 1612-1704 and Anne Stacie
Children: Thomas, JOHN, Ann, Mary and Sarah
- ✓ JOHN FITCH (1642- ~~1682~~ 1684) and Rebecca Lindall
Children: John, Rebecca, NATHANIEL, and Mary
- ✓ NATHANIEL FITCH (1682-1743) and Elizabeth ?
Children: JOHN, Lindall, Elizabeth, Abigail, and Mary
- ✓ JOHN FITCH (~~1711~~ - 1748) and Elizabeth Beers
Children: Nathaniel, JOHN, Elizabeth and Susanna
- ✓ JOHN FITCH (~~1745~~-1811) and probably Elizabeth Lockwood and 2nd wife, Mary

JOHN FITCH, JR. who died of small pox in Norwalk in 1792
GIDEON FITCH who settled early in Wyoming Co., PA (came with Father, John)
- ✓ NATHANIEL FITCH, who married Sarah Keeler, and settled early in Wyoming Co., SUSANNA, do not know what happened to her.
- ✓ NATHANIEL FITCH, (1782-1839) and Sarah Keeler had children:
Seymour, Giles, NATHANIEL, Morgan, Spencer, Abigail, John, Perry, Sarah, Nancy, Allen, Mary Polly
- ✓ NATHANIEL, JR. son of NATHANIEL and Sarah Keeler came to Allen Co., IN, unmarried, about 1832. Being a blacksmith he worked on the Canal locks for several years earning enough money to purchase land and get married to SARAH ELIZABETH DELONG.

Other items that help to prove this line are the will of ELIZABETH (BEERS) FITCH ELLIS

In it she states that her husband was JOHN FITCH

She states that her grandchildren are JOHN FITCH, JR., GIDEON FITCH, SUSANNA FITCH, NATHANIEL FITCH KING, ELIZABETH KING, SARAH KING

We find that JOHN FITCH married Elizabeth Lockwood in 1766

His sister, ELIZABETH FITCH married David King in 1767

Have several contracts between JOHN FITCH and the KING family before 1788

Some time after the death of John Fitch in 1748, his widow married Henry Elis

The will is under the name of Elizabeth Elis

Land records under her name also tell us that she is the sister of Eunice Beers

And that she calls David Beers her brother.

Other things as the location of the lands and neighbors indicate this is the family we are looking for.

Area is Fairfield Co., Weston and Wilton, and Green's Farms. Home of the Beers, the Lockwoods, the Kings and Poplar Plains, land of John Fitch.

We have Pennsylvania land documents that say that Gideon Fitch and Nathaniel Fitch call John Fitch "their father"

Life in Pennsylvania may have been very hard in 1788. Records were not well kept out in the frontiers of the country and what were may have been lost through floods that ravished the territory from time to time. We have the census records from 1790 on, for John Fitch. They show he may have had other children. They show him on the 1800 census and on the 1810 census. He is still on the tax rolls in 1813. A small item in the Wyoming Co. newspaper tells that John Fitch died in 1815 at the age of 78 in Tunkhannock, PA, and that is as far as the information goes.

There is a cemetery near the Susquehanna River that now contains the graves of the Fitch family. Originally there was a plot on the Fitch farm with the gravestones, but eventually that land was sold and made into a gravel pit, and so the graves were moved to the Roberts Cemetery and were placed just outside the fence. Nathaniel and Sarah (Keeler) Fitch are buried there, but there are no gravestones for the father, John or his second wife, Mary.

Rumor had it that John was disgusted with the way Pennsylvania was handling the land that the settlers had claimed and he gave up his land to his two sons and went back to Connecticut and died there. However, he is still on the tax rolls in 1813 so doubt that story and with the news bit about his death in Tunkhannock, it is even more doubtful. Probably the legend or story had roots in the fact that apparently John Fitch, Jr. as a young man (1792) went back to Norwalk, either for a visit or for good, and got small pox and died there. At his death, his only inventory seemed to be a few articles of clothing and personal things so perhaps he did go for just a visit. What a hard way to lose your first son!

Gideon raised his family in the area, though in another township, and the Fitch Cemetery at Lockville, PA is named for him and you will find his gravestone there. Nathaniel, stayed on the farm close to the Susquehanna River and Falls, PA, and there raised his family. Most of his sons married and had families that lived close, except for our NATHANIEL who came to Indiana. NATHANIEL had been apprenticed to a blacksmith in Easton, but rumor has it that he ran off and came home and opened a blacksmith shop with his brother, Giles. It worked for a while as they did blacksmithing and gunmaking, but soon there was not enough work to keep Nathaniel satisfied so he took off for the west, on foot. Carried his gun and that was about it and eventually came to Indiana where he worked on the canal for some time. It was also said that he was gone 14 years before they heard from him again in PA. If that is so, he was married and had children by that time. It was said that he made one trip back to PA and some of his family came out to Indiana for a visit. We know that one

nephew came to visit and stayed and married into the Hand family. He was Jefferson Sickler, a son of Nathaniel's sister.

If anyone should read this and disagree with my assessment of the genealogy of the family, I would love to hear from you. It is always a work in progress and others may have uncovered things that we have not. We need all the pieces. I would love to hear from you if you might have any photos of the original Fitch Cemetery in Falls Twp., Wyoming Co., PA. It was moved in 1975 to the Roberts Cemetery so any photos before that time would be welcome. Or if anyone knows where we might find the grave of Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch, who died about 1784 around the Fairfield and Weston or Wilton area in CT, northeast of Norwalk.

Much of the research done for this family project was done by Ann Hassold and myself, Betty Fitch. You may contact me at wfitch5413@aol.com

John Townsend Fitch's Website has his books and CDs
www.fitchfamily.com

Newspaper excerpts from the Wyoming Co. PA newspapers can be found at the Wyoming County Historical Society website at

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~pawchs>

Acknowledged January 18, 1838, by Wesley Park before John F. Coburn, Recorder of DeKalb Co., Indiana (LS)

Acknowledged January 16, 1838, by Sophia Park, the wife of the said Wesley Park (she being separately examined apart from her said husband) before John F. Coburn, Recorder of DeKalb County, Indiana (LS)

Recorded November 19, 1838 Deed Record "C", page 280

On January 17, 1877, in Allen County Court, November term, 1876, AMOS FITCH, was appointed administrator of the estate of NATHANIEL FITCH. Probate Order Book "P", page 407

Estate of Henry Fair to Nathaniel Fitch, 1856

After Henry Fair went West and did not return he was presumed dead. Possibly they knew he was dead. Have no information on that at this time, but part of his estate was sold to Nathaniel. Henry's son Christian Norman Fair would eventually marry Francelia Fair one of the twins of Nathaniel and Sarah. This apparently was some of the land that was in DeKalb County and Allen County next to each other so would say it was part of the Mathias Fitch land and some that eventually was owned by John Fitch and family. Nathaniel paid \$1,600 for the land.

Elizabeth Fair to Nathaniel Fitch, 1856

Elizabeth received a life lease on 36 of the acres in the above estate and she sold those to Nathaniel also for \$500.

George DeLong to Nathaniel Fitch, 1857

After the death of George Washinton DeLong, Nathaniel bought a part of his estate "on the court house steps". This was apparently part of the land that was next to his original homestead land that he bought from Wesley Park. George's wife Julia Ann also turned over her portion of the estate in 1857. Nathaniel paid \$1,500 for this property. G. W. DeLong was a cousin of Nathaniel's wife, Sarah DeLong Fitch.

Clark to Fitch 1865 This was the land that the mill race was on and Nathaniel paid \$100 for the rights to this land as long as he was using it. When he stopped using it, it reverted back to the original owner, Oran Clark. It probably was land so he could have access to the mill race and taking care of it properly.

From Oran M. Clark to Nathaniel Fitch, May 8, 1865, January 11, 1865.....Butler Twp., DeKalb Co.

.....
March 20, 1837, The United States of America by Martin Van Buren, president, by A. Van Buren, secretary, grant by Patent, the West half of the North West Quarter, Section 10, Township 32, Range 12, to NATHANIEL FITCH.....Recorded February 24, 1890 (?)
Book 115, page
.....





1905 4th of July - Fitch home where the Grandmother lived
Row I Marguerite Fitch Cecil Fitch Wm. Fitch, 'Marguerite Stratton, Marie Fitch,
Helen Fitch, Helen Stratton.

Row II Best Fitch, Wm. Fitch, Great Grandmother Great Fitch, Sylvia Fitch
John Fitch, Henry Fitch, Burgess Fitch.
~~John Fitch~~ ~~Henry Fitch~~ ~~Burgess Fitch~~

Row 3 Flurence Best Fitch, Lindsey Fitch Beal Fitch Stella Lloyd

Harold Fitch Wm. Fitch, Shirley Fitch & Wella Lloyd
one of the Davis Fitch is gone

Row 4 Frank Fitch, James Fitch, Beatrice Fitch, George Fitch, Alfred Fitch
Harold Fitch, Willa Lloyd, Claude Fitch, Merna Lloyd, Harold Stratton





Beatrice and Althea Fitch

**Frances (Vandolah) Fitch on swing
Perhaps Ida (Fitch) Mason with her**

**Sarah Fitch with her cow
Note the wooden pump!**





Fannie Fitch on swing



Stoner's Mill 1889
By Dr. Mackels



Jacob Kell on horse in front of homestead, Kell Rd.



Grandpa Fitch's saw mill on Fitch Rd.

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch
The original ancestor of Fitch family at old homestead
off Coldwater Rd., south of Shoaff.





Stoner's Mill 1899
By Dr. Hacksels

Fannie Litch
on Sewing

Leandrea Litch's (Matthias)
Sawmill on Fitch Rd
Down by Water

Lake Hill
about
11 yrs old
+
Old Molly

Sarah Elizabeth Litch
The Original Ancestor of Litch
Family - at Old Homestead
off Calderwater
South of Shoaff

Stoner's Hill 1899
By Dr. Mackels

Fannie Fitch
on Seving

Fitch Family Reunion 1905, 4th of July
Row 1: Marguerette Fitch, Cecil Fitch McComb,
Marguerite Stratton, Marie Fitch, Helen Fitch, Helen
Stratton
Row 2: Bert Fitch, Wm. Fitch, Great Grandmother
Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Ernest Fitch, Schuyler Fitch, John
Fitch, Kelsey Fitch, Burgess Fitch

Litch's (Mathias)
on Fitch Rd
by Water

Lake Nell
about
11 yrs.
+
Old Molly

Row 3: Florence Bess Fitch, Audrey Fitch, Gladys
Fitch, Stella Gloyd, Hurshel Fitch, Nina Fitch, Glayd
Fitch, and Della Gloyd none of Dr. David Fitch's sons
Row 4: Frank Fitch, Parker Fitch, Beatrice Fitch,
George Fitch, Althea, Rolland Fitch, Otis Gloyd,
Claude Fitch, Norma Gloyd, and Harold Stratton

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch
The Original Ancestor of Fitch
Family - at Old Homestead
off Coldwater
South of Shoaff

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Fall 1993

Why a Fitch Newsletter?

If you receive this newsletter, you are directly related, by birth, adoption or marriage, to Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch of Perry Township, Indiana (just north of Fort Wayne). Married in 1840, they had 15 children between 1842 and 1865. 13 of these children lived to adulthood, and 10 had children. Today there are more than 950 living descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah.

Among the first few generations there was a very strong bond of kinship. Almost annual family reunions were formally organized in 1902, bringing Nathaniel's children, grandchildren and great-grand children to Indiana from around the country each July 4th. Informal reunions are documented as early as 1884.

In 1972 a Fitch committee led by Carolyn Davis compiled and published a marvelous 85-page book of family photos, history and lineage. In 1982 the families' vital records were updated.

As the earlier generations passed away and the distances, both generational and physical, between Nathaniel's descendants grew, participation in the annual reunions waned. While there was a local Fort Wayne Reunion in 1992, the last annual Fitch Reunion was in 1986.

By 1992 many of Nathaniel's descendants knew little or nothing about their 19th century Indiana roots or the 100 years of Fitch Reunions. Those who do remember the people and stories of those early days are, for the most part, in their 80's and 90's.

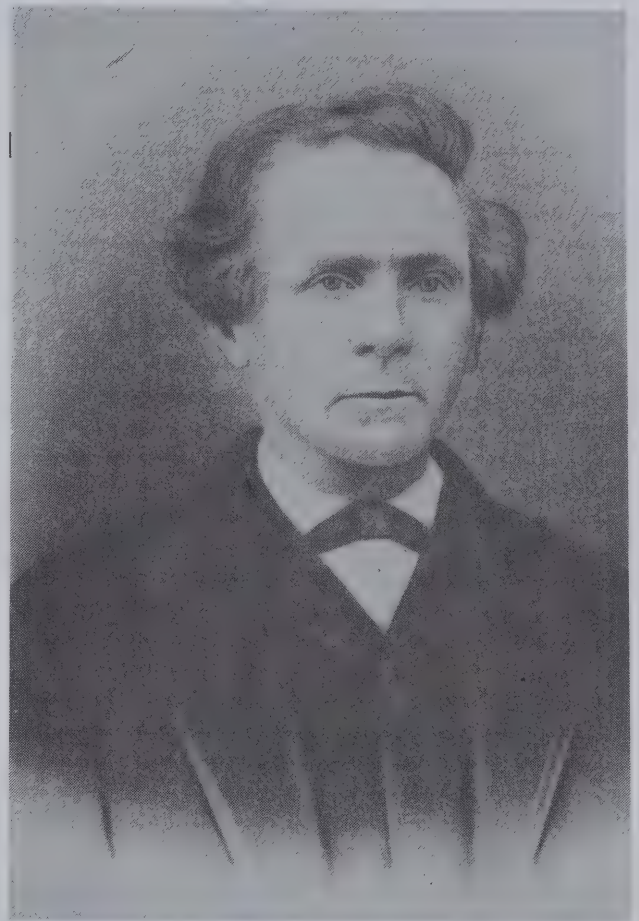
With much of our early family history on the verge of being lost, it was decided at the 1992 Reunion to collect and publish old family stories and photos and to distribute them to every descendant family and adult with a unique address. It is hoped that newsletter recipients will pass along copies of the newsletters to their minor children when they reach adulthood.

While the newsletters may perpetuate the memories of loved ones, now gone, and help maintain links between otherwise distant cousins, they are designed as family historical references.

Newsletter - Pg 2

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Since our 1992 mailing list was out-of-date and many cousins did not receive last year's newsletter, its stories and photos are included in this newsletter.



Nathaniel Fitch
"The Jennie portrait"

Sarah & Nathaniel portraits found and now available

During the 1870's Shoaff Photographers of Fort Wayne took at least two portrait photographs of Sarah and at least one of Nathaniel. The family historian has had one pair of those portraits since they were presented to the Family by Margie Beers Ozanne, a daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers. (The Jennie portraits)

A second, slightly different portrait of Nathaniel was known to have existed, as it appears in an 1884 Reunion photograph, but its whereabouts was unknown until recently.

When Betty Fitch provided a list of Fitch items in the Allen County/Fort Wayne Historical Museum, it was noted that it included a pair of portraits given by

Help Us Identify Our Kin

Many of our older photos are without identification. Elaine Kirbach and Carolyn Davis have been able to identify some, but many faces remain unknown.

If you recognize anyone in our photos who is not identified in a caption, please let the family historian know, so that our family photo albums will be as complete as possible.

Now Available: Address Lists and Vital Records

If you would like an up-to-date copy of your family's vital records and addresses (e.g. Perry and all his descendants), please send a stamped (29 cents), self-addressed business-sized envelope to the family historian, noting which family list you want. (e.g. Mathias)

For more than one family or all the families' lists, please send your request and \$5.00 to cover copying and mailing. (Any "profit" from the mailings will go toward the cost of publishing the newsletters.)

- Newsletter from Pg 1 -

It is generally recognized that most people reach a point in their lives when they are curious about their roots. Perhaps intuitively we know that who we have become is somehow, perhaps genetically but certainly experientially, related to the generations that preceded us.

Or perhaps it is just plain curiosity. In any case, the newsletter should provide some insights and answers about our Fitch family that might otherwise be unavailable.

PLEASE WRITE !!!

[OR CALL]

**YOUR FAMILY HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP
TO KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE.**

**Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173**

617-862-6172

Sample of Address and Vital Record Lists

Name	Street Address	City State ZIP	Birthdate	Birth Place	Marriage	Date of Death
Amos Fitch	- - -		6/11/1849	Perry Twnshp IN		11/ 9/1935
& Nancy E. Hunter	- - -		1/22/1849	Perry Twnshp IN	11/27/1878	6/ 1/1930
Gladys Fitch	- - -		10/15/1881	Butler Twnshp IN		10/30/1962
Rolland H. Fitch	- - -		9/12/1884	Butler Twnshp IN		6/ 3/1959
& Margaret H. Gutermuth	- - -		10/11/1890	Fort Wayne IN	11/27/1930	5/21/1943
Marie E. Fitch	- - -		6/29/1891	Butler Twnshp IN		11/20/1984
& Arthur G. Houser	- - -		10/31/1880	Butler Twnshp IN	10/26/1916	5/26/1955
Richard Houser	355 Woodcrest Ln	Xenia OH 43585	5/ 4/1918	Garrett IN		
& Lois J. Hyler	-do-		1/18/1921	Willard OH	8/16/1941	
Steven R. Houser	84 Hardacre Dr.	Xenia OH 43585	9/19/1942	Los Angeles CA		
& Brenda L. Morr	-do-		12/19/1948	Decator IL	10/19/1968	
Etc.						

Where is the Fitch Flag?

During the Civil War Nathaniel's daughters sewed together a Union flag to demonstrate their support of the United States' war effort. The flag was displayed at Fitch Reunions up through the 1920's and perhaps later, usually as a photographic backdrop.

At the 1956 Reunion, Nina Fitch presented the flag, which had been given to her by Ida Fitch Mason. Helen Hawver was asked to call the Allen County/Fort Wayne Historical Museum and have it placed there with other Fitch family artifacts.

A recent inquiry by Sister M. Alma Louise indicates that the flag is not in the Museum's collection. If anyone has any information on the flag's whereabouts, it would be appreciated if they would contact the family historian. We would like to get color photos of the flag and, if there should be another reunion, we would like to have the flag displayed there. (See Pgs 18, 24, 27)

Another Mystery...

The Photos of Ivan and Frank Fitch

It is believed that both Ivan and Frank Fitch (a grandson and son of Perry, respectively) had old Fitch photos and other memorabilia. We have one photo with Frank's name stamped on its back, implying that he was the photographer.

Their direct lines ceased when Ivan died in 1979, and Frank's only daughter died in 1975. It is possible that their photos have been lost or destroyed, but we are hoping that someone knows of their whereabouts.

If you have any clues, please contact the family historian. We would be very grateful, as there are very few old photos and documents available to us at present.

- Portraits from Pg 1-

Nathaniel's youngest son, David Fitch. Subsequent correspondence with the museum curator confirmed their existence, and color photographs of "the David portraits" were secured for the family records.

We know nothing of the history of David's portraits, but Margie Ozanne's note with Jennie's portraits says, "My mother always hung these portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah in her home the first thing each time she moved. My father was a preacher, and they moved frequently."

The two portraits of Nathaniel were prepared from the same negative, but the charcoal treatment of his clothes is different in each. The portraits of Sarah are each unique.

Thanks to a professional photographer who donated his time, perfect reproductions of "Jennie's" Nathaniel and Sarah portraits are available to the family. Shot in color so that the charcoal enhanced photographs show their age, the copies will appear identical to the originals if framed under glass.

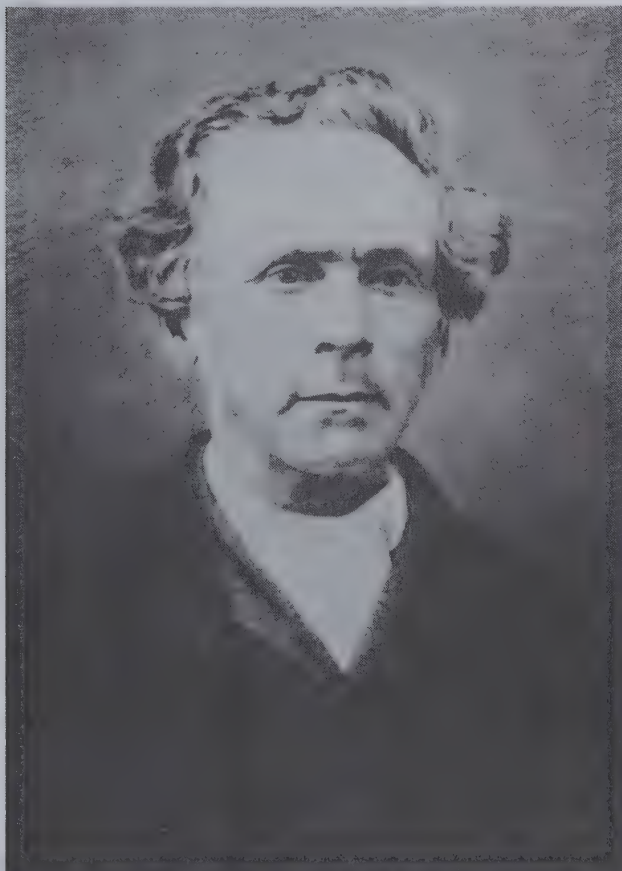
Jennie's original portraits, each of which measures about 14" by 17", have been archivally framed in hand-carved, gold leafed, period frames made of Indiana basswood and presently hang in the living room of the family historian's 1830's home.

Color-matched prints of "Jennie's" portraits are available from the family historian at cost, including shipping.

Prices	5x7	8x10	11x14
1st Print (either N or S)	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$20.00
Add'l Prints of Either	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.00	\$15.00
E.g. Both N & S	\$11.00	\$18.00	\$35.00



Sarah DeLong Fitch - "Jennie's Portrait"



Nathaniel Fitch - "David's Portrait"



Sarah DeLong Fitch - "David's Portrait"

Who's Who in the Family

Keeping track of all our Fitch kin now requires a computer, so it is not possible to publish a complete list in a newsletter. However, it might be helpful in appreciating the stories and photos to know a bit more about the family lineage. If you don't know from which of Nathaniel's children you are descended, ask a parent or grandparent or call the family historian.

Descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Descendant Surnames</u>
Perry Fitch	1/6/1842	4/14/1900	Fitch, Pendleton, Lawrence, Evans, Getty, Head, Richards, Sanford, Click, Hamilton, Holocher, Dawson, Stetler, Dewitt, Belanger, Hula, Kistler, Owen, Ragan, Dennie, Wright, Glowaty, Gay, Akers, McCarthy, Burzloff, Walberry, Patton, Rucker, Wyatt, More, Smith, Ewing, Gladbach
Mathias Fitch (Si/Sci)	1/16/1843	12/10/1923	Fitch, Harnett, Bunker, Coen, Lyon, Balch, Blackburn, Caple, Colvin, Lawson, Culbertson, Fulk, Jones, Lortie, Wies, Lockwood, Romans, Ober, Furlough, Kell, Davis, Honeick, Brice, Sonderoth, Maurer, Samaniego, Seeger, Dillman, Jokay, Monroe, Bailey, DeBolt, Lyons, Gulick, Knowles, Barnes, Arnold, Gray, Bushur, Leaycraft, Neally
Mary Jane Fitch (Jennie)	10/15/1844	3/17/1925	Beers, Ozanne, Pullella, Lyon, Wille, Cassell, Spangler, Peterson, Sherick, Harrison, Farrell, Policht, Tegarden, Wheeler-Ozanne, Gierlich, Johnston, Weber, Adams, Flickinger, Healey, Kephart, Hunt
Charles Fitch	3/29/1846	8/21/1925	Fitch, Harvey, Hart, Chamerlain, Shirley, Shirk, Nobis, Baden, Bowling, Pearson, Milon, Kiernan, Vilankulu, Durkee, Anderson
Nancy Fitch	3/16/1848	9/ 1/1848	None
Amos Fitch (Ame)	6/11/1849	11/ 9/1935	Fitch, Houser, Kirbach, Wagner, Dove, Noll, Wert
Fitelia Fitch (Fi)	4/10/1851	1/ 8/1935	Gloyd, Pusey, Moyer, Emenhiser, Liggett, Brown, Walker, Hoot, Moudy, Stoller, McDaniel, Leach, Vandeloop, Hardwick, Cumberland
Francelia Fitch (Frank)	4/10/1851	12/29/1937	Fair, Bressler, Gartner, Macon, White, Ch�rene, Horn, Christie, Belew, Eric, Hurtig, Scully, Sleeper, Hulsizer, Wall
Harvey Fitch (Harve)	7/15/1853	9/13/1948	Fitch, Hursh, McComb, Freck, Huber, Kittaka, Sloffer, Tom, Kelham, Walters, Gatza, Thrush, Cox, Mossberger, Yarde, Yingling, Degitz, Brown, Ropp, Zirkle, Green, Inman, Miller, Vandermeer, Smith, Lucas, Gaff, McCrea, Geller, Downs, Zorger, Enyeart, Russell
Sarah E. Fitch (Sade)	3/29/1855	8/ 4/1958	Stratton, Jeschke, Bowlby, Schafer, Newell, Radspieler, MacInnes, Shryer, Boast, Boyle, Nobles
Allen Fitch	2/21/1857	12/19/1952	None
Ida A. Fitch	10/25/1858	12/14/1945	None (married Mason)
Emeline (Emma)	2/ 1/1861	8/28/1949	None (married Hartzell)
John E. Fitch	2/14/1864	5/19/1870	None
David N. Fitch	2/13/1865	4/ 4/1950	Fitch, Wuepper, Deck, Davis, Birdsall, Mann, Shaffer, Silha, Reimann, Hoza, Hawver, Brogren, Scofield, Florsheim, Le Vay, Richardson

Fitch Reunions Remembered

1884 - 1986



The 1884 Reunion "Luncheon"

There was a definite focus on food from the very earliest Reunions, as documented by this photo. Regretably, the informality of the situation prompted many of the children to move about during the long exposure, making most of them small blurs. Close-ups of this photo are on the following pages.

Very few families can boast of having reunions for 100 years, but our Fitch family can. Thanks to the many Reunion secretaries, who wrote minutes of the Reunion activities, the recollections of Mary Belle Brogren, Carolyn Davis and Elaine Kirbach, Marie Fitch Houser's diary (provided by Elaine) and a collection of early photographs, it is possible to get a sense of what the early Reunions were about.

The first documented Reunion was held in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead in Perry Township. Two photos of that Reunion have survived. A formal group photo, which was originally published in the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book, is reprinted on page 6. A second more informal photo provides some insight into one of the major events at Reunions: A potluck luncheon eaten together under the trees.

After a number of casual Reunions, a more formal structure was adopted in 1902 when Mathias Fitch was elected president of the Reunion "organization". Emma Fitch Hartzell was the secretary from 1902 to 1908, when Jerome Gloyd and Belle Fitch became president and secretary, respectively.

From 1911 to 1914 John Fitch presided as president with Kenneth Beers as secretary. Kenneth was, among other things, a journalist, and his minutes are among the most descriptive. Kenneth also took photographs at the Reunions, and two small booklets of his photos from 1914 and 1915 have survived. Excerpts from Marie Fitch Houser's diary in 1913 provide insights into the impact of the Reunions on those who lived near Hometown, Indiana.



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd — Bessie Fitch and Margarita Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch - Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.

- Reunions from Pg. 5 -

Until 1934 the Reunions were held at the Fitch Homestead or a nearby relative's place. After that, they were often held at various church groves around Hometown, Cedarville Park or River Lodge Shoaff Park.

July 4, 1911 Reunion Minutes

(This reunion is representative of what went on at early Reunions.)

At the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gloyd in Allen County, Indiana, the 10th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held.

The house was appropriately decorated with the National colors.

Old Glory of which we are all so justly proud, and this grand old flag which for so many years floated over the old seminary, making it especially dear because of its associations, proudly waved a greeting to all comers.

The morning session was entirely devoted to the reception of relatives. A hearty welcome was extended by the host and hostess, and all present gladly responded by expressing their great pleasure in again meeting the happy families.

At noon the basket dinner was served, covers being placed for fifty. Tables were spread on the south lawn in the shade of the large trees.

Although it would be impossible to do justice to a description of such a dinner, all present certainly did justice to the dinner.

At two o'clock, the annual business meeting convened with Mr. Jerome Gloyd, the president, presiding. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, forty-eight responding to roll call, with 79 marked absent. Total number enrolled 127.

The report from the proceeds of the Fitch Fund was given as follows: Allen Fitch \$2.53; Mathias Fitch \$.10; Emma Hartzell \$.70; Ida Mason \$.75; Fie Gloyd \$.10; Harvey Fitch \$.10; Amos Fitch \$.60; David Fitch \$.25; William Fitch \$.10; Kelsey Fitch \$.10 and \$.20. Total amount \$2.65.

In the discussion which followed it was suggested that this money be used, perhaps to bring some distant relative to the annual reunion, perhaps invested, but not to be used to defray the expense of the reunion. A motion was made by David Fitch and seconded by Emma Hartzell, that the Fitch Fund be used in some special way, and that a committee be appointed to state what it should be used for.

The motion was carried, and Allen Hartzell, Mathias Fitch and William Fitch were appointed to the committee. The committee was instructed to submit an annual report from each person who had a share of the original investment.

Dr. Mel Mason was appointed to take the collection to defray the reunion expenses.

The amount given was \$4.34, which with a balance \$.41 in the treasury, made a total of \$4.75 on hand. The following bills were allowed by consent: Ice cream \$3.00, Printing \$1.35, Total of \$4.35, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$.40.

The annual election of officers was held, which resulted as follows: President, John Fitch; Secretary, Kenneth Beers and Treasurer, Ida F. Mason.

A cordial invitation was extended by Gladys Fitch for Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch, for the reunion to be held at their home on July 4, 1912, and was heartily accepted by consent.

The motion to adjourn was carried, the boys being 'anxious to "warm up" with a game of pitching horse shoes, and the girls to "cool off" by wading in the cool waters of the little brook running through the orchard. The invitation to "Come in, the water's fine" was accepted by several who later were forced to return to the house to hunt the lost shoes and stockings.

A lively time resulted, and a number of punishments were meted out to the culprits, Marguerite Fitch, Helen Stratton and Forrest Fitch, while several suspended sentences were given, Aunt Ida acting as prosecutor. No serious results attended those who received the duckings under the pump, nor from the fact that Aunt Ida was obliged to leave for her home without her stockings.

During the afternoon patriotic songs were sung, led by Charles Moudy with May Beers presiding at the organ. Refreshments of ice cream, fruit and lemonade were served.

Guests from a distance were uncle David Young and his grand daughter Miss Mary Young of Troy, Ohio.

Despite the fact that the weather was the hottest on record for seventeen years, all spent a most delightful day, and at a late hour departed for their homes, looking forward to the time of next annual meeting on July 4, 1912.

John Fitch, President

Kenneth Beers, Secretary

Excerpts from Kenneth's minutes in 1912 add some detail:

Harvey Fitch and family were the first to arrive, having decided that the day was ill suited to haying. Others followed in quick succession and, seated under the spreading branches of a big mulberry tree, discussed politics - - mostly Democratic, automobiles - - mostly Overlands, and all things in general until dinner was served.

And the dinner - - a genuine Fitch dinner. Chicken fried, chicken roasted, chicken with dressing, chicken undressed, chicken gravy, chicken and noodles and goodness knows how many more chicken concoctions, boiled ham, cold ham, salads, preserves, pickled eggs, deviled eggs, butters, jellies, pickles, cherry pies and other pies, chocolate cake, sponge cake, devil's food,

angel food, black cakes and white cake.

There was doubtless more, but this is only a record of that which passed one end of the table, and much more failed to pass, for the other end of the table was guarded by Rolland, John, Parker, Otis, Will and others of equal caliber.

Marie Fitch Houser's Diary

(Marie's 1913 diary entries indicate the social nature of the days around the Reunions.)

Tuesday, July 1, 1913

Kenneth and May Beers came about 11 o'clock. Men cut wheat. Kenneth, May, Marguerette and I drove down to John Fitch and Uncle Jerome's in P.M. in our car.

Wednesday, July 2, 1913

Kenneth, May, Marguerette, Gladys and I went to New Haven today. Stopped at Ft. Wayne and had two tires pumped up and tank filled. Got to New Haven about 11 o'clock. Stopped at the bank. Went up town and got soda. Uncle Allen went with us. We drove up to Aunt Ida's a minute. The folks went on out to Aunt Emma's. Marguerette and I went out with Uncle Allen. Edith and baby were there. Had good time and started back to Fort Wayne about 3 o'clock where we visited Harold at Lutheran Hospital. Came out to Hometown where we stopped at Uncle Frank's and Uncle Harve's. Then stopped at Fred Kell's and then home. Men finished cutting wheat. Went to bed early.

Thursday, July 3, 1913

Worked all day getting ready for reunion. Kenneth and Marguerette went to Hartungs (neighbors) and got butter. Kenneth went down to John Fitch's and Uncle Si's this morning. Stayed at Uncle Si's for dinner. Uncle Si came back with Kenneth and that evening we all went to Auburn for a band concert.

Friday, July 4, 1913

We all went down to Parker's to the reunion. There were 80 there. Aunt Belle, Hurshel and Helen came down after dinner. Aunt Ida and I talked about Dr. Crile. Uncle Mel strayed away, and men had to hunt for him. Had ice cream. Heard report and went home.

Carolyn Kell Davis' Recollections

(Carolyn, who is 92, attended a few reunions as a teenager and all but one from 1923 to 1993. The reason that she couldn't attend before 1923, when the Reunion were changed to the first Sunday in July, was that it was harvest season and her father needed the horses, her brothers and herself in the fields.)

As each guest arrived, they were greeted by the

host and hostess or a greeting committee. Out-of-state relatives were given a lot of attention.

As we gathered at the table, one of the family returned thanks.

After a sumptuous meal, we assembled for the business session. They followed Robert's Rules of Order, and the business was soon over. Then all visitors were asked to report all the news of their families and their part of the U.S. The secretary read the letters received from absent members. Memorials were given for members of families who had passed away. We closed the meeting by rising and singing "'Til We Meet Again".

The young men often played baseball in the afternoons. A group of men, including Kenneth Beers and Rolland Fitch, played golf at Auburn.

The children were left to their own resources. Helen Hawver wanted to supply something to entertain them but it wasn't too successful. When the Reunion was at Amos Fitch's, they could go wading in the creek, if some adults went. One time a teenage boy tied knots in the ladies' stockings and hid their shoes and hose. Aunt Ida held the culprit's head under the pump, while someone pumped water and gave him a good dousing.

One highlight of every Reunion was the treats that Uncle Mel Mason and Uncle Allen Hartzell provided before we left to go home: Two large containers of ice cream. The kids lined up and could come back for 2nd's, 3rd's, 4th's, etc. as long as it lasted. For most of the kids this was the only ice cream that they would have all year. Kids were served cones; adults dishes.

Elaine Houser Kirbach's Recollections

I can remember my mother frying chicken, baking a chocolate cake, baking beans, making a jello salad and buttering slices of bread or Parkerhouse rolls.

The best part of the Reunion, as a child growing up, was playing with cousins your age and eating all the good food...and especially the ice cream cones that were handed to us "free" by a couple of male cousins who dipped into big metal containers for the ice cream. There was always a prayer before we ate and usually "Bless the Tie that Binds" was sung.

Some of the men played horseshoes in the afternoon. When my grandparents (Amos Fitch) had the Reunion at their farm, they would clean out the big barn, which was banked, up to where the hay mows were. I believe that is where the tables were set with food. I remember that they gathered all attending on the bank of the barn for a reunion picture.

LOST REUNION PHOTOS

Group photos were a regular part of Reunions, so there are clearly gaps in our photographic records. Can you help?

Helen Belle Brogren's Recollections

My two sisters and I always considered the Family Reunion a part of our summer. My mother would pack our silver and dishes and a meatloaf, (It seemed to be what she always brought.) and we would drive out to the big day with our relatives. It seemed to be always warm and summer, but then children do not recall weather, do they.

I can remember going to a little white church in Huntertown. This was prior to renting a pavillion in Fort Wayne.

The people arrived with their families, and the children piled out and kinda stared at each other. Children shyly take their cousins for granted each year, and I guess that we played after we made polite words to the adults, who made an attempt to get all the members of the family "straight". There were new babies, newly-weds and frail older people.

The women seemed to be always placing the food on a big serving table and talking and waving the flies away. The men played horseshoes.

Highlights of the day were the cousins who arrived from Kansas, the east coast and Minneapolis, etc. Rolland Fitch always created a sensation when he drove up in the latest Packard.

The meetings were full of organization, roll call and the comments from visitors from afar, memorials to the members of the family who had died during the year and letters read from those who could not attend.

At the end of the day, there was free ice cream...all you could eat! Can you imagine in the depression years, the joy of the little cousins!



Four of Nathaniel's daughters at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Jennie Beers, Fitelia Gloyd, Emma Hartzell and Sarah Stratton. (L to R)

Treasurer's Report

At the 1992 Reunion, it was decided to use the money that remained in the Fitch Fund to publish a newsletter, and the Fund's balance of \$165 was turned over to the family historian, who makes the following report.

Beginning Balance - 7/92	\$165.00
Contributions since 7/92	+305.00
Expenses	
Fall '92 Newsletter	(265.44)
Updating Addresses/Records	
Mailing	(80.94)
Telephone	(240.02)
Copying Loaned Photos	(141.77)
Portrait Framing	(77.98)
Fall '93 Newsletter (est.)	(910.00)
Ending Deficit (est.) - 9/93	(1,246.15)

In the fall of 1992 we sent out 200 22-page newsletters, of which more than 20 were returned for out-of-date addresses. The Fall '93 newsletter will be 32 pages long and will be mailed to more than 400 carefully researched addresses and 950 descendants.

Needless-to-say, we are depending on the generosity of Nathaniel and Sarah's descendants to cover the expenses of our '92 and '93 newsletters and our research and, hopefully, to provide funds for another newsletter next year.

Thanks for your support, financial and otherwise.



Sarah Stratton, Sarah DeLong Fitch (the matriarch) and Nancy H. Fitch (Amos' wife) have tea/coffee at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.(L to R)



Frances Vandolah Fitch (Mathias' wife) peers out from behind the serving table at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Child is unidentified.



Harvey Fitch holding Audrey Fitch, his first child (blurred behind flowers), at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Other children are unidentified.



David Fitch and Jerome Gloyd (Fi's husband) seated at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. (L to R) Schuyler Fitch (Mathias' son) sits on the grass.



Amos Fitch sits surrounded by unidentified children at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.



An unidentified child sits with his plate in his lap at the 1884 Luncheon Reunion.



William S. Fitch (Perry's son) sits on the grass (R) at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Others unidentified.



Irvin Stratton (Sarah's husband), Mathias Fitch in the checkered shirt and Ida Fitch eat with unidentified children at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.



Ida Fitch, Levi Beers (Jennie's husband) and Allen Hartzell (Emma's husband) have their coffee at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. (L to R)

1905 Fitch Family Reunion

July 4, 1905
At the Fitch Homestead



(Left to Right, start at the very back row)

1st (Back) Row: Allen Fitch, Harvey Fitch, Schuyler Fitch, Mel Mason

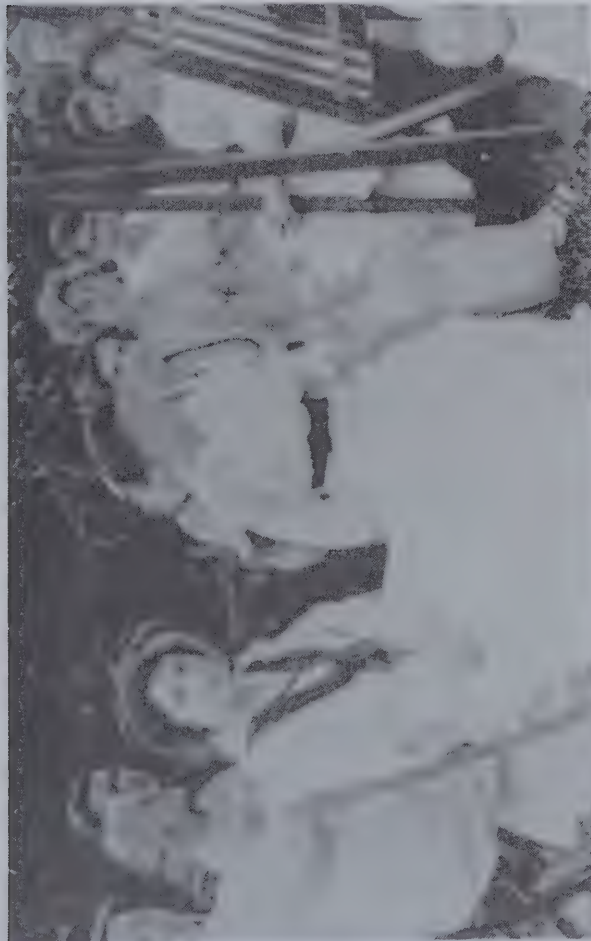
2nd Row: Parker Fitch, Claude Fitch, John Fitch, George Fitch, Otis Fitch, Will Fitch, Rolland Fitch

3rd Row: Allen Hartzell, Emma Hartzell (Mrs. Allen Hartzell), Belle Fitch (Mrs. John Fitch), Gladys Fitch, Leah Fitch, (Mrs. Schuyler Fitch), Lucinda Fitch (Mrs. William Fitch), Audrey Fitch, Pearl Fitch, Emma Fitch (Mrs. Allen Fitch), Jennie Beers (Mrs. Levi Beers), Althea Fitch, Jerome Gloyd, Nancy Fitch (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Fittelia Gloyd (Mrs. Jerome Gloyd), Mathias Fitch, Bessie Kell (Mrs. Fred Kell), Della Gloyd, Leander Stratton, Norma Gloyd, Beatrice Fitch

4th Row: Bert Fitch, Kelsey Fitch, Artie Fitch (Mrs. Kelsey Fitch), Anna Fitch (Mrs. Bert Fitch) holding Thelma (babu) Etta Fitch (Mrs. Harvey Fitch), Helen Fitch, Mrs. Sterlin (mother of Mrs. David Fitch), Cecil Fitch, SARAH ELIZABETH DELONG FITCH, Nina Fitch, Stella Gloyd, Sarah Stratton (Mrs. Erwin Stratton), Emma Fitch (Mrs. David Fitch), Fanny Fitch (Mrs. Mathias Fitch), Sarah Fitch (Mrs. Perry Fitch)

5th Row: Rowene Fitch, Grace Fitch, Cleo Goff (Relative of Jerome Gloyd), "Moms Fitch" (since I don't know who who annotated the back of the photo, I can't identify "Moms"), Marguerette Fitch, Ernest Fitch, Irvin Fitch, Marguerite Stratton, Helen Stratton, Marie Fitch, Carolyn Kell, Ida Mason (Mrs. Melville Mason)

6th Row: Forrest Fitch, Oscar Fitch, Robert Fitch, Jacob Kell, Merlin Fitch, Otis Fitch, Erma Fitch, Verma Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Kell, Fred Fitch, Victor Fitch



Titled "The Progeny" by photographer Kenneth Beers. The ladies and the younger children gather under the trees at the gliding swing at Frances Fitch's (Mrs. Perry Fitch) home on July 4, 1914. None are identified.



More folks at the 1914 Reunion. May Beers is 4th from left with hands folded in her lap. Bryce Ozanne is center foreground. Margie Ozanne 5th from right, seated. Other are unidentified.



Titled "The Battlefield" in a small booklet of photos made available to his kin by Kenneth Beers. "The old evergreen trees made a beautiful background for the decorations of flags and the national colors, and the gentle slope of the lawn towards the road made an ideal place for the one long table where places were set for 83."



Titled "And this 'snap' explains the mysterious disappearance of the beet pickles." Allen Hartzell, whose back is to the camera, has his right hand on the jar of beet pickles. The other end of the table probably never got any.



Looking down the 1914 Reunion table at dinnertime. (L to R: rear) Emma Hartzell and Will Fitch. (Seated) Hurschel Fitch, _____, Alma Fitch and Sarah Stratton



(L to R) Sarah Stratton (just barely), Jerome Gloyd and a young Fitch with something in her mouth. (R to L) Althea Fitch, Bryce and Margie Ozanne, Rolland Fitch and Mel Mason. Others are unidentified.

On Our Family Photos

Thanks to the same friend and professional photographer who carefully and without charge duplicated the portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah for us, the family historian has a photographic copy stand set up in his home.

Using a Nikon camera, special lights and some incredible close-up lenses, (also loaned to me by this friend) I am able to photograph old prints that have been sent to me by various, thoughtful Fitch kin. When the originals are returned to their owners, our family copies (and negatives) are annotated and filed in photo albums.

As a general rule, I shoot each photo in its entirety, and then, if the faces would not be identifiable in a 5" x 7" enlargement, I use an extreme close-up lens and shoot a series of 3" x 5" photos of the original. My opinion is that we should be able to see what people looked like without a magnifying glass. (Also, they are less expensive than enlargements and fit standard albums.)

The photos on this page are examples of that process. These three photos are actually parts of a single photo taken by Kenneth Beers at the 1914 Reunion and titled "A Closer Look".

If you have any photos that might add to our understanding and appreciation of our Fitch family, please send them to the family historian for copying.



The right side of the table includes (L to R) Althea Fitch, _____, Helen Hawver and Burgess Fitch.



The Fitch family assembled at Ida and Mel Mason's home in New Haven, Indiana, for the 1915 Reunion, held July 5. Note the Fitch Union Flag behind the tree on the left.



(L to R) David Fitch, _____, Roy Beers, Mathias Fitch (holding hat). Others are unidentified.



Ida Mason, the hostess of the 1915 Reunion, is wearing the white apron (left of center). The quality of the original photo makes it difficult to identify others; but, hopefully, someone more familiar with these faces will be able to help.



The right hand side of the 1915 Reunion photo. Again, we need help in identifying these folks.



Some happy young folks sit on the front steps at the Masons at the 1915 Reunion. Can anyone identify them?



Children at the 1915 Reunion...Who are they?



More fine looking children on the steps at the Masons' home during the 1915 Reunion. The girl in front of the post may be Hillis Fitch.



More beautiful children without any identification.



"The Table" at the 1915 Reunion. All of the 1915 photos were taken by Kenneth Beers. Again, someone should be able to identify their ancestors, aunts, etc. in these photos.



"The Table" at the 1915 Reunion. No identification.



Ice cream cones for all the children at the 1915 Reunion. Unlimited servings of ice cream were part of everyone's Reunion recollections. No identification.



This photo of early automobiles was included in Kenneth Beers' 1915 Reunion collection. Could this be at the Mason's home in New Haven, Indiana?

1917 Fitch Family Reunion

July 4, 1917

At the home of Emma and Allen Hartzell



1917 Fitch Family Reunion Photo

(Left to Right from the back row)

1st Row: Bert Fitch, LeRoy Beers, Kelsey Fitch, Harriet Hartzell, _____ Hartzell (2 nieces of Allen Hartzell), Arthur Houser, Althea Fitch, Gladys Fitch, Melville Mason, Kenneth Beers, Margurite Stratton, Verne McComb, Rolland Fitch, William Fitch, George Hursh, _____ Moudy (father of Charles Moudy), Parker Fitch, John Fitch, George Fitch, Claude Fitch.

2nd Row: Edith Hartzell, Stella Gloyd, Ann Fitch (Mrs. Bert Fitch), Cecil McComb (Mrs. Verne McComb), Marcelle McComb, Pearl Fitch, Clara Beers (Mrs. Roy Beers), Douglas Beers, May Beers (Mrs. Kenneth Beers), Kenneth Kitch, Marie Houser (Mrs. Arthur Houser), Margurite Fitch, Edith Fitch (Mrs. Claude Fitch)

3rd Row: Alma Fitch (Mrs. Parker Fitch), Philamenia Fitch, Belle Fitch (Mrs. John Fitch), Artie Fitch (Mrs. Kelsey Fitch, Cami Fitch (Mrs. Frank Fitch), David Fitch, Forrest Fitch, Irvin Fitch, Otis Fitch, Oscar Fitch

4th Row: Loretta Fitch (Mrs. Ollie Fitch), Norma Moudy, Bessie Kell (Mrs. Fred Kell), Audrey Hursh (Mrs. George Hursh), Amos Fitch, Nancy Fitch (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Etta Fitch (Mrs. Harvey Fitch), _____ McComb, Harvey Fitch, Allen Hartzell, Robert Gloyd, Anvilia Gloyd (Mrs. Otis Gloyd), Hilda Gloyd, Otis Gloyd

5th Row: Emma Hartzell (Mrs. Allen Hartzell), Ida Mason (Mrs. Mel Mason), Mathias Fitch, Sarah Fitch (Mrs. Perry Fitch), Jennie Beers (Mrs. Levi Beers), Levi Beers, Jerome Gloyd, Fitelia Gloyd (Mrs. Jerome Gloyd), Sarah Stratton

Rest a little, play a little,
Sighs and tears will come.
Store up all you're able,
Of the sunshine, while there's some.
Pluck the flowers along the way,
For evening comes so soon,
Then you'll want the memories
Of happy hearted noon.

"This verse was repeated by Roy some years ago when Alice and I were traveling with him and Clara."

Margie Beers Ozanne

6th Row: Margurite Griffin, Mary Louise Fitch, Thelma Fitch, Floretta Fitch, Verma Fitch, Erma Fitch, Ralph David Fitch, Icel Fitch, Elizabeth Kell, Rawles Moudy, Hazel Moudy, Iolene Gloyd, Francis Fitch



Harvey and Etta Parker Fitch at their home. (date unknown)

The Memoirs of Charles Oakley Fitch

Anne S. Nobis sent a copy of her grandfather's memoirs to the family historian. Charles Oakley Fitch was Nathaniel's grandson and late in his life he wrote a most interesting and autobiography, which includes background on his mother and father, Charles and Lou Ann Fitch, as well as his uncle Allen Fitch.

Charles O. Fitch was born in 1878 and died in 1958, having lived on a farm in Iowa and then in South St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked his way up in the live stock markets.

The memoirs are 16 single-spaced, typewritten pages and are a full of detailed stories of growing up in the late 19th century with run-away horses, baseball, dances and fights with the Irish, etc. One such story:

"Speaking of ponies, I had finished the 8th grade at the old Stickney School and was driving my pony attached to a one seat sort of buck board buggy with a high seat and would pick up Fay Murray at South Park, and we would drive to the West Side, St. Paul to old Humboldt School.

"I used to leave our pony at Sasso Mack's barn there on the yards everyday as he worked for the yard company.

"I only went to High School for three months

when I quit, but during that time I must have been pretty good, as we had a Latin examination, and the next day the teacher in front of the whole class asked me if I used a pony, and I said, "Yes." She said to see her after class.

"She said that she thought I used a pony as my answers were pretty good. I said I did not think that my driving a pony had much to do with my answers, and then she found what kind of a pony I was talking about. I was pretty green and did not know that you could get a book (called a "pony") with the answers to the Latin examinations."

If you would like a copy of his memoirs, please send the family historian a self-addressed, stamped (\$.75) business-size envelope with your request.

"Jennie's Family" Available

Published in 1992, "Jennie's Family", a 96-page, large format, soft-bound book, chronicles what it was like growing up as a Methodith preacher's son in western Pennsylvania in the late 19th century. Largely written by Kenneth Beers, a grandson of Nathaniel, it has been favorably compared to Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie".

Full of photos, including all of Jennie's descendants to the present, a limited number of books are available to the family for \$20.00 each from the family historian.



A Fitch Reunion about 1920
Nothing else is known about this photo



A Fitch Reunion about 1920
Nothing else is known about this photo



Ida and Mel Mason

This photo is meant to supplement the Fitch Lineage Book, which did not have their photo.

Ida Fitch Mason's Remarks at the 1925 Reunion

Eighty-five years ago the fourth of last month (June 4, 1840), Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong were married and began in the forest of Perry Township to hew out a home for themselves and bear a family of fifteen children. There are now fifty-three families scattered all over the U.S. with 189 members from this branch.

To raise a family of 15 children this day and age; a man would need to be a multi-millionaire. Personally, I'm glad it was my lot to be born and reared in the woods on the banks of little Willow Creek. I think, I would have missed half of the joys of childhood. When I came into this home I made an even dozen: six boys and six girls.

I remember my older brothers and sisters as being young men and young women. And I received most of my care from them. I think it well for the present generation to be told of the hardships of our elders. At least, it thrills me with pride to think of our parents undertaking to rear a family with no more to do with than ours had. We were not raised on lolly-pops and all-day suckers.

First and always, they agreed their children should have an education, a thing they were both deprived of to a large extent. We were never permitted to stay out of school to help on the farm.

Our Mother and Father were manufacturers. Everything that was needed that could not be bought was made by one of them.

Our mother was our best doctor and nurse, our preacher and teacher. She was our lawyer who laid down the code of justice. Mother was police woman that kept order. And also, the Judge that hands out the punishment as all families at times need.

I have given a little of our family history.

I wish to speak of our oldest sister, Mary Jane Fitch Beers (Jennie), wife of Levi Beers.

It is with sadness we meet the passing of our family circle. Si was the life of our reunions, and we do miss him.

Our sister Jennie had a vision for each of the younger members of the family. She helped our parents carry out their educational plan. Three of us were taken to Wabash in her home and entered high school when she and Professor Beers were teaching there.

I have many personal reasons to thank her for principles she taught me when a child.

We had a circle letter call the Six Fitch Sisters which was carried on for years until we numbered five.

On March 17th of this year our sister was called to her Heavenly home from the home of her daughter in Neenah, Wisconsin. I'm sure she will meet her pilot face-to-face. We are proud and glad for the five children that brother and sister Beers have left to better the world.

Nathaniel Jr. and Sarah DeLong Fitch

Reprinted from "Jennie's Family"

(The following details of Fitch family life were compiled from many sources. Notes and materials gathered by Alice Beers Kephart, Kenneth Beers and Margarita Beers Ozanne were especially helpful. The intent is to supplement, not repeat, the material in "Fitch Family History with Lineage Lines of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch.")

Nathaniel was "bound out" for six years to learn the blacksmith's and gunsmith's trades to a party in Easton, Pennsylvania by his father. (Easton was about 100 miles from his home.) He came home in about six months with the knowledge of the trades and is said to have run away from his apprenticeship. He opened a shop on the old homestead in partnership with his brother Giles. After Giles learned the trade, Nat, as Nathaniel was called, said that there wasn't enough work for the two, so he sold out to Giles.

Apparently, Nathaniel wanted his father to give him a spring for making scythes. His father refused, and Nathaniel left home and went west with \$.15 in his pocket, a rifle, a bag of salt, a hatchet and whatever else he had tied in a bandana handkerchief. He wasn't heard from for 14 years. Nathaniel wore a black handkerchief around his neck for years.

In Wabash, Indiana, Nathaniel set up his blacksmith shop and made locks, guns, traps, hatchets, plowshares, axes and other needed hardware. He was an expert at tempering steel, and customers would come from Michigan and all around. He made all the ironwork for the canal locks between Wabash and Fort Wayne (ultimately the canal ran to Toledo and the Great Lakes), moving his shop along with the advance of the canal.

When Nathaniel would come home to visit during this canal blacksmithing, if the creek was running full, he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money, he would go and get his money belt.

A permanent camp of Indians was nearby when he first set up his shop. They could be seen through the woods and would come begging Nathaniel to mend their traps and guns. On one occasion he was obliged to ask an Indian, who had a gun to mend, to wait, whereupon the Indian came at Nathaniel with a knife. Nathaniel was by the forge, working on a sharp shovel, and was ready to cut the Indian's head off. Another Indian, the chief named Chopine (Little Turtle) took the first

Indian away, saying, "bad Indian," which referred to his drunken state.

A year or two after coming to Indiana, Nathaniel went back to Pennsylvania for a girl. She refused to come west. "Too wild." Two of his brothers, John and Seymour ("pretty boys") did come out but got wet, took cold and died.

Sarah Fitch was a DeLong, born near Dayton, Miami County, Ohio. Sometime thereafter she lived in Pennsylvania. Her father was from Germany and was unkind to her. He was educated but did not speak English. Her mother was a Statler. Sarah was never educated due to the German attitude toward girls and could neither read nor write. Later in her life she learned to read and to write a little, but there were simply no opportunities for formal schooling.

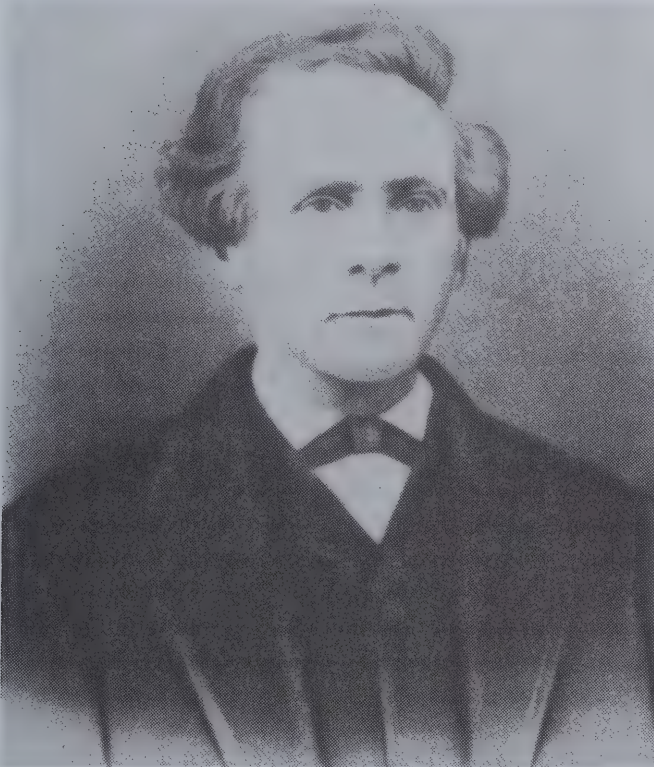
Sarah spent 45 minutes every day for three months making a rude dam across a large stream. One day a raft of a thousand logs came down the stream and destroyed the dam. She came back through the woods shouting.

A neighbor family (Cumstock) was planning to go west by wagon. Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and left with the Cumstocks. She went with them to her sister's, Mrs. Christina Fair, in Dekalb County. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn where she worked in a tavern. Next she went to the Vandolers. She cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes for \$.50 a week.

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina replied that her sister wasn't married and called her to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Nathaniel and Sarah were married in June 1840. She wore a changeable silk dress, which she remembered fondly. On the day after her wedding she walked to their 20 acres and picked a bucket of strawberries. She and Nathaniel began house-keeping in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring near Huntertown, Indiana. They lived there until 1854 or 1855 when they moved to a larger frame house where Sarah Elizabeth was born. The log house was torn down in 1855.

Nathaniel was six feet tall in his stocking feet. His arms and legs were scarred where horses had jerked before the nails had been turned in shoeing. He wore homemade clothes but on one occasion went to Fort Wayne to buy a suit. The store owner fitted him and said, "That suit just fits you," whereupon Nathaniel bent over and split the coat. "What are you made of," the owner asked. Nathaniel then lifted a two bushel sack of wheat and put it in the wagon.



Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., age 64 (c. 1870)

Apparently Nathaniel was not one of the county's classiest dressers. One day he went to town in search of a new mill stone. The young man at the store didn't think much of his appearance and couldn't believe he could have any money to pay for it so he went back to check with his boss. He said, "There's a man out here who wants to buy a mill stone, but he doesn't look like he's got \$10 to his name." The owner looked and seeing that it was Nathaniel said, "That is Nathaniel Fitch. Sell him four or five if you can. He is a big land owner north of here."

On another occasion, when the government opened up the land in Iowa, Nathaniel decided to go. He walked most of the way. The last day before he got to the town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift.

When they got to town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office, only to learn that the last of the land had been sold to Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode to town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

On that trip to Iowa he wore a vest that Sarah had made, with gold coins sewed into the lining in many places. He never took it off during the entire trip, except when he needed money.

There were two forges. The children would gather to watch the sparks fly, and Nathaniel, wearing his leather apron, would drive them off for their safety. He would take the boys to the shop but never the girls.

Nathaniel was known as a prodigious walker, perhaps because he didn't like horses. He held a mortgage on some property some distance away. When he heard that the man was going to leave, he said, "I guess I'll go over there. Maybe I'll be gone over night." After breakfast he departed and arrived by nightfall, having walked all day.

On another occasion, Harvey and Amos started to Fort Wayne with two loads of wheat, leaving Nathaniel at home. When they arrived in Fort Wayne, Nathaniel was there talking with friends.

Nathaniel liked to challenge the boys to a race to town. He would start off on foot, and the boys would take horses, but he would be waiting in town when they arrived.

The Fitches were Democrats. Nathaniel felt that Negroes were better off with their masters, yet opposed slavery. When Perry was drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War, Nathaniel went to Kelloggsville and bought him off with greenbacks. When the boys were excited by the drums of war, he would say, "Take your hoe (or cradle) and get back to the field."

Nathaniel wrote into one of his books the following inscription: "Don't steal this for fear of life, For don't you see the butcher knife."

Nathaniel didn't like horses and never drove them. He never owned a buggy until Sarah received some money from Ohio. Then he bought a three seated spring wagon. But he liked cats and often played with one that he had at the mill. Sarah always had her own riding horse.

When men were building a new house, one dove off a rafter to prevent Amos from injuring the twins (Fitelia and Francelia) with a hatchet.

There was an original old log school house on Nathaniel's land, which Perry and the older Fitch children attended. A smooth topped table, flanked by a pair of long benches made of slabs with the flat side up ran the length of the building. Another table and benches were against the wall. The children would recite between the tables. It was a small building and smelled of the frying and cooking.

Perry Center Seminary was founded in 1856 by Nathaniel, Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart to provide education for the community's children. There was no toilet or well. Nathaniel boarded the masons who built the foundation, free. The seminary was a frame building of which the German Mr. Kell said in broken English, "I wish you would break up. Then I'd do better."

There were two large rooms for classes on the first floor, and six or seven rooms on the second floor. The teacher lived at the seminary, and some boys stayed there during the week in the upstairs rooms. Others came by wagon or sled, gathering others along the way. Moll and Jane Fair, Mary Fleming, Ann Ross and two Vandoler girls would spin and do other work for Sarah in return for board.

There was an oral entrance exam, where the teacher asked the questions, and parents sat up front to watch when their own children were quizzed.

The teacher, Mr. Fleming, had "Eastern" ideas as to what should be taught and had the children studying Greek and Latin, among other subjects. Nathaniel's third child, Mary Jane, known as Jennie, took to this study like a duck to water and she prepared for college. During her time at the Academy she and the other girls made a Union flag, which has been displayed at Fitch reunions ever since.

Jennie attended and graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1870. Nathaniel wanted Jennie to come back home to teach after graduation. She did return the summer after graduation to teach in the white schoolhouse across the creek but then taught in Fort Wayne, in Utica, New York and in Wabash, where she married Levi Beers, a teacher. During that summer the parents paid by subscription for teaching their children.

Nathaniel was quite disappointed that Jennie left. Her sister, Sarah, their tenth child, says that Jennie was "the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.



The flag made by Jennie Fitch and her sisters at the start of the Civil War. It was shown at each Fitch Reunion.



Jennie Fitch's college graduation dress, worn by Lucille Ozanne in 1930 in front of the Ozanne home in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"Jennie had it plenty hard after her family came, and she had to learn what we did at home. I'm not blaming her. It was Father that spoiled her."

During the early years of the Civil War, sometimes 150 students attended the seminary. When military drums were heard, Mr. Fleming would dismiss the class and all would go out to watch 10 or 12 wagons of soldiers go by. The seminary closed when its teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army. The deed wasn't recorded, and when the building ran down, Mr. Kell tore it down and built a barn.

A non-graded district school provided education to the younger Fitches. Fitelia and Francelia left school at 10 years. To reach the school, the children crossed Cedar Creek on a fallen tree trunk. When the creek flooded, Nathaniel would take his and neighbor children across in a canoe, cautioning them not to put their hands out.

In the morning Nathaniel would glance at the clock and say, "school time." Then he would

stand in the door and see that the children got off to school. The children remember cold mornings, just daylight. When the children came home from school, mush, which had cooked for several hours, was on. Later, when Nathaniel was sick and didn't go out, he would stir it. There would be pitchers of milk and maybe doughnuts and apple pie.

On summer days the girls would go barefoot to school and carry old dresses that they would hide in the willows by the creek. At noon they would change into their old dresses and go swimming. Jennie would come and throw stones just for fun, to make them think it was the boys.

On the last day of school there was always an exhibition. Ida was to speak "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse," which had just come out in Will Carleton's book. Ida would get mad at Jennie about something, get stubborn and not do anything. After she went to bed, Jennie would go up and coax her and teach her "Over the Hill." On the last day Ida spoke it, wearing a long black dress, bent over with a cane. Mrs. Stover, the preacher and Miller's wife, cried. Everyone cried.

Tables would be carried out under the big oaks for lunch and food put on the table. The children ate first, waited on by their mothers. On another big oak tree up a little ways, Mr. Stone would bring a big rope from the mill and put up a swing. Mrs. Noonan would come and bring a pillow case to put anything left over to take home.

Behind an early portrait of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and a poem in her handwriting: "Jennie Fitch is my name, And single is my station. And happy may the gentlemen be, When he makes the alteration."

Ida always had a strip of bed ticking sewed in her skirt bands because she played so rough and came home with her clothes torn. Skirts were very full with a couple of petticoats. She was very rowdy as a girl, followed by Allen, who was impetuous and impulsive. It became a family habit to train her, and this made her more stormy.

Emma would sit in a little rocker, rocking and wailing. She was always sickly as a child.

The children never had any typhoid, just children's diseases. No broken bones, except John, who went into the barn where the horses were loose and was kicked.

Nancy, Sarah's fifth child, took summer complaint (cholera infantum) and died. Sarah felt that "If I hadn't given up there, I'd have saved Nancy."

During the cholera plague that swept the community one year, Sarah and Nathaniel went nightly to help the sick and dying. They changed clothes down by the creek. She went to nurse, and he went to make coffins. In the morning they would bathe in the cold creek and put on the clothing they had left there before returning to their families.

Sarah was also an active midwife, who assisted in many births in the county.

Sarah made cheese and barrels of pickles for sale (soaking and stemming the pickles was extra). In the kitchen loft, an attic over the porch, dried apples, pumpkins and grapes hung in cotton sacks from the rafters.

Sarah cooked for years before a fireplace and grated corn to make meal before the mill was built. Nathaniel later got her a stove with 3 lids and a big oven on top. She baked salt-rising bread in a round Dutch oven or later in the stove.

Their ninth child, Harvey, remembers, "We didn't have a variety of food, but had plenty of it ... meat, potatoes, and bread. If we had anything sweet, it was usually maple syrup or sorghum molasses." There were deer, wild turkeys and peacocks in the woods. If successful at hunting, the boys would bring home squirrels.

The loom upon which their woolens were woven was in the room next to the kitchen. Shortly after its installation, there was consternation in the kitchen as breads and cakes would fall during baking. It was discovered that the thump of the loom was the cause.

There were always 5 or 6 hired hands eating along with the family, making meals for 20 a common occurrence. One winter 20 students ate there and went to the seminary. The hired hands ate first, then the children, who sat on the stairs and waited their turn at the table.

The Fitches had a cane mill to produce sorghum molasses (from millet), of which there were up to five barrels stored in the cellar at any one time. One pushed the cane in, and one prodded the horse. The molasses came out green and had to be boiled and skimmed out of doors under shelter.

To wash clothes, Sarah went down a steep hill to the creek, beside which she had a big iron kettle. She would dip water from the creek and boil the clothes, using soft soap. After rinsing in another tub, the clothes were hung near the creek if there were no cattle loose. Some of the better clothing was taken up the hill and hung by the house.

Ida was in Wabash when Kenneth Fitch Beers was born (1876). A stovepipe above the nurse who was holding Kenneth fell. Ida leaped up and caught it before it hit him.

When the men at Amos' were out of meat, Nathaniel would take his gun into the woods and shoot and dress a deer and, once in awhile, a bear. Then Sarah and the boys would hitch up the team of oxen, go through the woods and pick up the deer.

Ida would go off to the woods to read. When a horse needed to be hitched, she'd be called.



Sarah Delong Fitch, age 52. (c. 1870)

The children would get up early and chase down to the plum thicket where there were five wild plum trees. They would pick up those on the ground before the hogs got them. There were also wild grapes and gooseberries, which were put in a coarse sack and rubbed with mittened hands to get the pricklers off.

For sweets there was taffy, which the children would pull, and popcorn with molasses on it. Sweet corn was parched in a skillet with butter on it.

Nathaniel hated to see girls with petticoats showing. If there was a hole in a dress, he would

say, "Tut, tut, tut. My grandmother never went that way." If the children were cutting up at the table, he just raised his finger at them or rapped on the table. The children subsided at once. He never raised his voice to them.

If a group of children were tee-heeing in the corner at the steps, without a word Nathaniel would take one by the hand and give a gentle shove with his foot to one corner, another to another corner, etc. to break up the party.

Sarah was also a no-nonsense grandmother. One of her grandchildren would beat his head on the floor and watch his mother for a reaction. When he visited Sarah, he got water in the face for his behavior.

While Sarah was critical with her family, she had a mischievous side, too. One time she invited two granddaughters to go shopping with her in Fort Wayne. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track, where the train would stop for them. On their way walking home, Sarah said, "Let's rest awhile." Before starting on, she took her drawers off, tied knots in each leg, put their packages in the legs and then put it over her shoulder. She then said, "Let's hear what the girls have to say about this!"



Dr. David Fitch and Harvey Fitch, brothers of Jennie, 1937. (L to R)

Bruno, a Newfoundland and one of the family dogs, followed Dave to Fort Wayne, where Dave attended school. Ida saw Bruno looking for Dave on campus. Bruno would wait for Dave on the hill

every Friday. Bruno would also steal taffy from the girls and on one occasion lapped up apple butter that Sarah had put outdoors to cool.

Bruno would go with Dave when he went hunting squirrels, but Bruno's preference was hunting woodchucks, where he would go a block on his belly to head off a woodchuck from his hole. He apparently hated men with packs, and, when a peddler came to the house, Bruno's hackles were up even before he saw the peddler.

Boots were made periodically by a cobbler who would stand each person against a wall, mark the length of his foot on the floor and then measure the distance with a stick. Shoes were carried coming and going to Sunday school. Nathaniel said that if you got them wet, you had to wear them until they were dry or you couldn't get them on again.

Much of their clothing was woolen, made from their own sheep. "Ida Fitch's got the itch, and all the children know it. If she don't oint at every joint." Nathaniel would carry his white shirt when going somewhere "dressed up." Fitelia made his shirts with collars attached and turned down. No ties.

Before Sarah had a loom, there were no night clothes. The girls took off their drawers and slept in chemises... low necks, short sleeves. Cold! Later Hannah Garrison took 2 or 3 colors of yarn and wove night clothes. The boys' plaid shirt material was made of 4 threads of blue and 4 threads of white. Girl's panties were also made, although later some were made of store-bought material.

When Perry, their first child, married Sarah Gloyd in 1864, there was a big two day wedding, starting on Sunday. The children remember how "unfair" it was. They had to be at school on Monday, across the creek, where they could watch the Fitches and Gloyds celebrating in Nathaniel's yard. Fitch children went to school all year.

Allen, their eleventh child, was born in February, 1857, but wasn't named until October, 1858, when Alice was born. Nathaniel finally said, "We'll call him Allen and the girl Alice."

When Sarah knew that Dave (their 15th child) was coming, she went outdoors, took hold of the clothesline and cried bitterly, "Can I go through that again?" She was 47 when Dave was born, 23 years after Perry's birth. Her first grandchild was born just 3 months after Dave's birth.

Her sister, Henrietta Delong Young, who was living in Ohio, sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons. Dave was

named after her husband.

Sheep were raised that produced a fine, mixed wool. Nathaniel washed the sheep in the creek, and the children would watch. In two years during the Civil War five wagons of wool were produced and sold to the government for script. At one time mutton was on the dinner table. Nathaniel asked, "Did you kill one of my sheep?" Upon learning that Sarah had, he got up and left the table.

Nathaniel owned and operated a wool-carding business, as well as a saw mill. The carding mill was powered by a 12 foot diameter overshot water wheel in the basement. The two carding cylinders were 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, made of leather with little wires put in every 3 inches. As the cylinders revolved near a table, they would pick up wool and make rolls. Ida would pick rolls out of the trough, catching it by the ends and giving it a little twist. It was then ready for spinning.

Shortly after the carding mill was built by Harry Fair in 1840, Nathaniel bought it. The building was two stories in height and 40 x 20 feet in size. Its dam was about 65 feet in length and 4 feet high on Little Cedar Creek, situated about a mile upstream from the mill. After trouble developed with the water supply, the mill was moved downstream, and the mill race was lengthened. The mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870.

The saw mill was powered by a 6 foot water turbine. It was initially an up and down saw that cut only as it went up. Later it was replaced with a circular saw. Logs (black walnut, oak, basswood, poplar) up to 5 feet in diameter were delivered to the mill, cut into 12 foot lengths and slabbed. Some workers hewed framing timbers 60 to 75 feet long by hand.

The saw mill was built in 1840 and quit business in 1908, having been operated by Nathaniel's second child, Mathias, after Nathaniel. The mill was a one-story building, 60 x 20 feet. Mathias added a feed-grinder to the operation.

Nathaniel's death may have been hastened as a result of injuries received at Sci's farm. He was using cant hook on a log when the cant hook slipped. Logs came rolling down. Nathaniel thought that one was spent and put out his foot. He was struck, whirled around and thrown, face down, onto the ground. The logs passed over him, injuring his chest. His head had gone into a depression in the ground, or he might have been killed.

Fie said to Sarah, "Mother, something is wrong." They ran to see Sci coming with Nathaniel, walking slowly. "A log rolled over him." The next winter was severe, and he took pneumonia. The nearest doctor was Hometown and "not much at that." Home remedies failed and Nathaniel died New Year's morning in 1877. Jennie came with Kenneth Beers, just 6 months old. It was very cold. Nathaniel was taken to the cemetery on a sled.

When he died, Nathaniel owned 2220 acres of land. It was said that he had two hobbies: Wheat and land. He was remembered as one who "never did a mean trick" in business and who raised a fine family.

According to Parker Fitch, grandson of Nathaniel, Sarah "just wore out" at 90 years old. She had a few sick spells, but every time the doctor arrived, she was OK. It was possible they were mild heart attacks. She was sick and in bed only two weeks before she died. Until then she was up and able to do her work.



(L to R, top to bottom)
Five of Jennie's brothers: David, Allen, Harvey, Amos and Charlie Fitch.

Additional Stories of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family

Alice Beers Kephart, Jennie Fitch's youngest daughter, was a graduate of Northwestern University and a school teacher in Colorado. She attended a number of Reunions and at the 1933 Reunion wrote down the reminiscences of her surviving aunts and uncles.

From her notes came much of the story of Nathaniel and Sarah that was published in "Jennie's Family" (see preceding pages).

Alice recorded 64 pages of early Fitch family history that would probably have been lost, except for her effort. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thanks also go to Alice's sister, Margie Beers Ozanne, and to Lucille Ozanne Cassell for safeguarding these notes since Alice's death in 1965.

Carolyn Kell Davis and Mary Louise Fitch (Sr. M. Alma Louise) read a prepublication draft of these stories and added their recollections. Carolyn's comments are noted in []; while Mary Louise's are noted in { }.

Nathaniel and Sarah began housekeeping in a log cabin on what became Ame's place, on the edge of a hill, near a spring and a wild cherry tree. In 1933 there was a walnut tree right where the cabin used to stand. [My brother said the spring is no longer there. It provided an enormous flow of water. Something caused it to cave in.]

There were peach trees at Nathaniel's, which he bought from a travelling nurseryman for \$1.00 a dozen. Nathaniel would go to the orchard, look up at the trees and pick out a fine peach. He would peel it and, if a child appeared, would offer a bite impaled on his knife.

In addition to peaches, their orchard had early red apples, sweet apples, old fashioned rambo (insect-free) and bell flower (fall) apples. The outside row of trees produced a good apple but not a good keeper. [The names of the apples are familiar as we had the same kind on our farm bearing fruit in the 1920's.]

Ame was an apple eater. He would eat about six apples a day: one at recess, 3 or 4 at noon, another at recess. He would stuff his pockets with apples. "Ame, give me an apple." "No, I've only got six."

Fi and Frank (the twins) as babies travelled in a horse basket made by an old itinerant basket maker from willows in the creek. Sarah would ride sidesaddle with the basket in front, knitting while the horse walked. [My mother told me that Sarah rode sidesaddle.]

Allen had ague and was carried on a pillow as a baby. [Ague was a malarial-type illness with high fever and chills. Ague weed, also known as boneset, was used to medicate.]

For medicines there was jimson weed, which was pounded and mixed with lard as a salve. There was sulphur and molasses, as well as boneset weed that grew in marshy places and was used in tea for ague.

"Shippey Place" was a marshy, low spot in one field where wild cranberries grew. [The name of a neighbor family who no longer lives in the area.] Sarah and Perry once took a load of cranberries to town, sold them and bought a set of little wooded chains.

Harve and Ida would take a little copper kettle and walk two and a half miles to Hometown and exchange for brown sugar.

The family hogs lived on acorns. Old Pink, who belonged to Emma, had only two teats. When dressed pigs were loaded on a wagon in the winter, they just rattled around (frozen).

If a pig needed butchering, Sarah and Perry would do it. You could tell when families butchered for their hair was all greased. During the winters, they would kill 3 or 4 steers for meat.



Sarah DeLong Fitch with her cow, probably at the Fitch Homestead. Date unknown.

Sometimes, Sade would take the children to the woods to eat picnic dinner, while the men ate at the table at home.

"Younguns" dug slab wood out of the lumber mill waste and split them for kindling.

Al and Charles gave Sci two greyhounds as a gift. When they would fight, the men would throw them into the mill race to separate them. Dave's dog had a double nose. The boys went to the river after corn planting, and the dogs got into the sheep and were shot.

Ame would work at the carding mill, taking fleece off to a corner on a sheet and throwing grease on it. Then he would work it with a pole before using picker to carry it to the carding cylinder. His recollection: "Old

stinking grease."

The wool from their sheep was put on hinged boards that had deep creases in one board with strings in the creases. The hinged side was brought up, the strings tied and the wool was packed for shipment. During the Civil War, wool was selling at \$1.00 a pound, which was quite a sum in those days.

Fi was married in 1875, the year of Nathaniel's final accident. She would brush his hair and "do for him". She asked him if he cared if she married that year. He said, "No, I don't mind." On Fi's October wedding night, some of the younger children hid peaches in her bed.

Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. Gerome and John Rundle {neighbors who lived to the south of Nathaniel. Three Rundles went to school at the District School on the Shoaff.} went to Auburn for his casket.

The bricks in Ame's house were handmade and laid by a 92-year old mason for \$112. The house was built in 1878.



Amos Fitch's brick farmhouse, built in 1878.

Ame plowed every day for two months to plant their first wheat crop. They harvested 50-60 bushels an acre and sold it for \$2.00 a bushel. Children gathered the sheaves. One year during the Civil War they received \$4.00 a bushel, which caused Nathaniel to sell too much of their crop. They had no wheat for bread at school. The children hated to carry cornbread to school, so they went home for dinner each day. When the new crop came in, the first load was taken to the mill so they had bread again.

It was almost impossible to get wheat to town in the spring due to the muddy roads. 20 bushels would make a load for a good team.

Back in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel's family used

eel skins as wheat flails. "If not careful, you got hit in the head by a flail."

Ame once wanted a pair of shoes, so he took 4 or 5 bushels of wheat to town and sold them for \$3.00 a bushel. Then he bought shoes. All without asking Nathaniel or Sarah.

In the Fall Nathaniel would buy a side of sole leather and some uppers from Spencer [I think Spencer refers to Nathaniel's brother from Pennsylvania who married a Sickler and came to Indiana. I'm not sure, but I think that he migrated farther west.] Old boots would freeze, so they were hard to get off.

Dances were held in Huntertown: Square dancing, waltzing and Marley (sic) march. The last dance was a fireman's dance. There were also necktie parties, where the girls made neckties, and the boys drank. {Parker (my father), Rolland and Burgess Fitch, and one other cousin whom I do not recall, arranged for dances on occasion. My father called many of the dances.}

Occasionally, there would be singing schools when Prof. Strant visited for two or three weeks, after which the girls would give a concert. People would come 8 or 10 couples in each wagon or sled.

There were skating parties at a spot called "the Prairie". The crowd came from school.

Little Willow Creek was grand, clean, green and mossy. Later it was called "Lovers' Lane".

Along in the fall, the family would go to protracted meetings. One time there was a protestant meeting at Union, but all the children had to go to school at the Seminary. Jennie went to the meeting and stayed overnight at the Rundles. She stayed for three nights, until Nathaniel said, "Ame, go to the Rundles for Jane." She came. (Jennie's actual name was Mary Jane.)

Once Fish West's horses were discovered grazing on some of Nathaniel's land. Fish always had a gang around him and professed ignorance. Nathaniel went out after dark and watched. Again, the next morning the horses were in Nathaniel's pasture. Fish asked, "How did my horses get in there?" "Barney," Nathaniel said to one of Fish's men, "I stood within 15 feet of you when you turned your horses in last night."

Nathaniel and a neighbor were talking about wood chains one day. Nathaniel said, "Better be careful, or you'll be wearing one of iron some day." The neighbor laughed, "They'll never catch me. See that horse over there. He'll disappear some night." And he did. The neighbor stole and hid horses, then ran them up to Michigan. [Horse stealing was rampant at that time. Nathaniel and my other grandfather, Jacob Kell, helped to organize a vigilante group (a sort of militia of local farmers) to stop the criminals, as there was no sheriff in the county. There is still some resentment about this activity among families living in the area.] (For this reason, the family historian has deleted the name of the neighbor who was allegedly stealing horses.)

Cloth for blue jeans and jackets was purchased by the bolt, as was material for sheets, pillow cases and

chemises. Shirting (hickory) of blue with a tiny white stripe was purchased from George Derrald. Sarah knit galluses (suspenders or braces), buttonholes and all. Fi helped with knitting stockings. Lizzie Wate cut out clothes.

Fi made Ame's first suit (brown). She also made an apron from cloth that she wove. Someone else did fulling and dying.

The twins were to be in a program and were to have new clothes. They went to the end of the lane to wait for a neighbor going to town. The neighbor bought them two gray, fringed shawls, one with white lines, and two bonnets with green feathers.

The railroad across the farm from Jackson, Michigan, to Fort Wayne was constructed by Irish gangs who lived in huts. Sarah attended to their pregnant wives as a midwife without pay.

Apparently there was a poor Irish family living in the area. Mrs. Noonan would gather up the leftovers from school graduation in a pillowcase to take home. She'd stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him, "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie." [My mother knew the Noonan children. This is interesting as it shows sanitation was unheard of in those days.]

When Ida sat behind Billy Noonan in school, she

always saw lice.

Sarah always had time to cut up. She could throw water as quick as anyone. Sade would get the children behind her, lined up, then play with Ida. Once they were throwing water on the porch, and Sade slipped. She spent six weeks on crutches.

Bess Fitch was the child who used to beat her head on the floor and got water in the face from Sarah for her behavior when she came to visit.

When Jennie left home, she left Fi her chair, a cane bottom rocker. Jennie had bought the chair when she was not well in Fort Wayne. (Fi still had the chair in 1933).

One summer Will Ferrin taught at the District School. He boarded in Huntertown and walked down. Will played with the children. Ellen Thornton caught him (long legs, hard-to-catch) and tore his coattail. Ellen was scared, but Will just laughed. Trudy Hatch once grabbed an oak limb to swing over a gully and fell, breaking her nose. (Not a strong girl.) The children also liked to play "blackman".

Nathaniel handed out money readily to the boys.

Nathaniel liked to hum "Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish ballad that recalls the good old days of one's youth.

Memories of Margie Beers Ozanne **Daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers**

Recorded December 19, 1971

Nathaniel's estate of farmland and property was divided up by his sons. Jennie, whose husband was a preacher and not a farmer, was given woodland on a stream.

Sarah heard children cry out when the teacher at the country school walked around the room, striking the legs of the children who were seated around the sides of the room. She objected to that behavior by the teacher.

Sarah bought a piano in 1871 for \$650, which she received from her relatives in Ohio.

When Sarah was riding somewhere, she would let her grandsons sit behind her and slide off the rear of the horse when she departed.

The train that ran near the homestead would stop to let people off for the Fitches. On one occasion, Jennie, her husband Levi and her children got off the train and were not met by anyone. So they started walking, carrying their lunch basket. When they reached a stream, Levi rolled up his pants and was half-way across with the basket when he heard big laughter. Si had come along with a wagon, picked up the rest of the family and transported them across the stream.

Once when visiting in Indiana, Jennie and her daughter Margie stayed with their Aunt Fi. On Saturday night Fi took her daughters, Stella and Della, along with Jennie and Margie, to a stream, where she took her clothes off for a bath in the running water.

On that trip there was no bed for Margie, so Fi

turned down the covers at the foot of the bed where she and her husband slept and laid Margie across its foot. (Margie didn't like it!)

Jennie wanted to go the college, which meant learning Latin. This may be one reason a teacher from Boston was hired by the Fitches to teach in the country school.

Corrections & Additions to the Nathaniel and Sarah Reprint from "Jennie's Family"

Page 22 - While Alice's notes state that Sarah's father "was unkind to her," it may have been her brother who caused her to run away to Indiana. According to another source, when her father died, Sarah's brother inherited his estate and decided to build a brick house. Sarah and her sister, who had to make the bricks, felt unfairly used and subsequently ran away from home.

A number of Alice's notes state that Sarah's father was from Germany and had a German attitude about educating women. However, DeLong is French. It is possible that this confusion could be resolved by her family being from the Alsace/Lorraine region or one of the other border areas between France and Germany.

Page 25 - It was Sarah, not Jennie, who would throw rocks where the girls were swimming, trying to make them believe that it was the boys.

Another Fitch Reunion?

This newsletter has focussed on past Reunions. A few of the cousins with whom I spoke while gathering vital records asked if there were any plans for future Reunions. At present there are no plans for Reunions.

However, if there is sufficient interest, there can be future Reunions, either annually or every few years. The key to successful reunions after the first few generations are gone is to find out what would attract family members and then to plan a reunion that will satisfy those interests.

Do people want to sit around and get acquainted with their near and/or distant kin? Or visit old family landmarks? Or hear the elders tell stories? Or look at old photos? Or visit the local museum? Or recreate past Reunions with wading, horseshoes and a potluck dinner spread out on a long table under the trees? Or all of the above?

If you have any interest (or even mild curiosity) in another Fitch Reunion, let me know your thoughts.

What Can You Do?

Keep me Informed

Send me your annual Christmas letters, birth and wedding announcements and obituaries. If you move, send me a change of address card.

Write your stories

Think about your (or your parents' or grandparents') life and note what people or events influenced its direction. What were its crises, joys, turning points and epiphanies? What would you like your descendants to know about you and your family? Send me a copy for our records and maybe publication in a newsletter.

Identify people in the newsletter's photos

Volunteer to help

Keeping track of the vital records and addresses of 1000 people would be better done by a small team of family historians, one for each of the 10 secondary families (e.g. Perry). I could maintain the master computer files, but these individuals would keep track of their respective families.

Help finance the Fitch Reunion Newsletter

Make checks payable to: Bill Cassell.

Fitch Family Historian's Address & Phone

Bill Cassell 617-862-6172
9 Independence Ave.
Lexington MA 02173

Thanks!

My sincere thanks to all of you who helped make this newsletter possible.

Thanks to Mary Belle Brogren, Lucille Cassell, Alice Fitch Deck, Sue Ann Fitch and Elizabeth Newell for their financial contributions.

Thanks to Mary Belle Brogren, Lucille Cassell, Carolyn Davis, Betty Fitch, James and Joanne Fitch, Sue Ann Fitch, Jake Fitch, Victor K. Fitch, Evlyn Gloyd, Barbara Hulsizer, Elaine Kirbach and Doris Pendleton for sending Fitch photos, recollections and documents.

Thanks to the many cousins who sent me notes and letters of encouragement and interest in the Fitch history.

Thanks to Carolyn Davis, Sister M. Alma Louise, Betty Fitch and Barbara Hulsizer for helping to update the vital records and addresses.

And special thanks to Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC (Mary Louise Fitch) and Carolyn Davis:

Mary Louise (82, the granddaughter of Harvey Fitch) was the family historian prior to the 1992 Reunion and provided me with meticulously kept records and documents, including much original correspondence and a number of photos.

Carolyn (92, the granddaughter of Mathias), as noted prior to her Reunion recollections, has been active in the Reunions since 1923. She was instrumental in the publication of the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book.

Both Mary Louise and Carolyn were wonderful cheerleaders during the last year, and their roles in the publication of the Reunion newsletters cannot be understated.

Coming in the Fall 1994 Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter

- Our ancestors BEFORE they looked like grandparents. A collection of early photographs of children and young adults.
- A map for a self-guided tour of Fitch landmarks (farms, houses, schools, mills, streams, etc.) in Perry Township, Indiana.
- More stories and photos of the Fitch Family. *If you can help with any of these topics, please write.)*

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 1995

Can the Fitch Homestead Be Saved?

The Fitch Homestead, after being a Fitch home for 140 years, is no longer owned by the family and is in danger of being torn down. A concerned group of cousins is exploring ways to save the Homestead and return it to Fitch ownership.

Nathaniel Fitch bought the original 160 acres upon which the Fitch Homestead sits from Wesley and Sophia Park for \$200 on January 15, 1838.

He and Sarah DeLong were the first couple to be married in Perry Township, Allen County, Indiana; and after their marriage on June 4, 1840, they began housekeeping there in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring. Their first nine children (Perry, Mathias, Jennie, Charles, Nancy, Amos, Fitelia, Francelia and Harvey) were born in that log house. Perry was 13 when the old log house was torn down in 1855.

In 1854 or 1855 they built and moved into a larger, frame house on the same property, where Sarah, Allen, Ida, Emma, John and David were born. It was in that house that Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. The "Fitch Homestead", as it came to be known, and the 160 acres on which it sat were inherited by his youngest son, David Fitch, an Auburn veterinarian. Nathaniel's wife, Sarah, lived there until her death at age 90 on September 2, 1908.

On January 17, 1893, David and his wife, Emma, sold the Homestead and slightly more than 80 acres of the Homestead land to his brother Mathias and his wife, Etta, for \$3,300. Since the Homestead sat just east of the new property line that ran north and south down the center of the 160 acre parcel, the property line was bowed westward around the house to give it a bit more land.

So that David could get farm equipment onto his western 80 acres without having to ford Willow Creek (the road to the Homestead came from Coldwater Road on the east), David reserved a right of way to his property across Harvey's property.

Both 80 acre parcels and the Homestead remained in the family until 1993, at which time David's 80 acres were sold to ACRES, a local preservation group (See "Bicentennial Woods"). Harvey's 80 acres and the Homestead, which were owned by his son Ernest's widow, Bernice Fitch, were sold to Irving Gravel Company in early 1994.

To date, the gravel company has removed most of the top soil on the land approaching the Homestead and will soon be removing the underlying gravel. The Homestead is



The Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Homestead in 1994

"A Grand Tradition Continued"

'94 Fitch Family Reunion

110 years after the first known Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family Reunion, 90 of their descendants gathered again in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for lunch, family stories, old photos and getting acquainted and reacquainted.

The 1994 Fitch Family Reunion, the first "you-all-come" since 1986, was held at the Psi Ota Pavilion in Northside Park in Fort Wayne from 11:00AM to 4:00pm on a rainy and blustery Saturday, August 20. Of Nathaniel's 10 children who had families, 9 were represented by their descendants at the Reunion: Perry, Mathias, Jennie, Amos, Fitelia, Francelia, Harvey, Sarah and David. While many participants came from the Fort Wayne area, others came from Iowa, Michigan, California, Massachusetts, Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and New York.

David's descendants actually arrived a day before -

Reunion - Pg 4

-In This Issue -

Nathaniel & Sarah's Children Before Grey Hair
"The Hanging Fitches?" - More on Vigilantes
The Fitches and the Bicentennial Woods
John Dillinger and Nathaniel's Grandson
Your Fitch Coat of Arms

- Homestead from Page 1 -

presently being rented, but it is not clear whether it will be torn down at some future time. While the Homestead qualifies for inclusion in the National Historic Registry, it does not have adequate historic significance, outside the family, to be protected from demolition.

At the '94 Reunion a number of us discussed the situation and decided to explore the possibility of saving the Homestead. Bill Fitch, Harvey's grandson, talked with Jerry Irving, the owner of Irving Gravel Company, and learned that Jerry was amenable to selling the Homestead. Since this would involve legal issues, fundraising and possibly moving the house, a small ad hoc committee of interested Fitch cousins was organized to do some research. In addition to Bill Fitch, the Homestead Committee includes Bill Cassell, Phyllis Fitch and Maggie Vegeler.

To explore our options and to try to get an idea of the economics of saving the Homestead, we have discussed our situation with representatives of ARCH (Fort Wayne's historic building preservation organization) and ACRES, David Gall (a knowledgeable local Realtor), Al Hoffer (an organizer who helped relocate a historic house in Fort Wayne). We have talked with owners of nearby properties that might provide relocation sites.

In early December Maggie Vegeler coordinated a visit to the Homestead by Phyllis Fitch, Dave Gall, Ron Alkind of Priority Inspections, Inc. and a principle of Merkle Heavy Moving Company.

The physical inspection of the Homestead, performed by Priority Inspections, indicates that the building is in pretty decent shape. The exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles (a few broken ones), under which is supposedly the original clear butternut clapboards. There are some rotted fascia boards, window sills and front door threshold and side trim. The roof has no more than 3 years remaining life.

The interior's condition is that of an older house with the expected plaster cracks and floor sags. There is need of some minor plumbing/heating work, smoke alarms and some minor electrical work in the basement and on the service line. A detailed report is available to anyone who is interested.

To bring the Homestead up to code and to preserve it from further deterioration would be fairly straightforward and cost a few thousand dollars. To restore the Homestead to its 19th century appearance, inside and out, would be significantly more expensive. Based on Bill Cassell's experience in restoring an deteriorated 1830's house in Lexington, Massachusetts, a serious restoration could easily add \$30,000 to the cost of the project.

While it may be possible to purchase the Homestead and its present site, plus an acre or two, from Irving, it may be necessary to move the Homestead to a new site. A rough estimate of these costs is \$60,000, plus the cost of the house.

The Homestead Committee's goal at this point is to see if there is an economically viable way to save the Homestead and return it to family ownership. If it appears that the Homestead could be purchased, renovated/restored

and re-sited, if necessary, and then generate adequate rental income to pay for its mortgage, taxes and maintenance, we will pursue the project.

Ideally, the Homestead should be owned and managed by a non-profit family trust, which would qualify for tax-deductible contributions, and it should be rented to Fitch descendants at a fair market rent (or something less, if the tenants did some maintenance). Or we might be able to locate a descendant family that is interested in owning the Homestead.

Ownership by a trust will require us to raise whatever funds are required in excess of a mortgage through donations and/or loans. This amount could be as little as \$15,000 or as much as \$30,000, depending on mortgage terms and banking relationships. Since some banks will not provide a mortgage until the house is habitable on its new site, if moved, we might have to secure short-term loans from family members in excess of \$100,000.

Our hope is that we can figure out how to secure family ownership of the Homestead without asking anyone for more than the loan of funds at reasonable market rates, so that following your heart into this project would also prove to be a safe, fair investment. Of course, if there is a Fitch financial "angel" out there with some of the needed capital, we would be happy to hear from him or her.

If you are interested in this project in any way and would like to provide financial, moral or any other kind of support, please contact Bill Cassell.

Fitch Homestead Notes by Betty Fitch (7/28/70)

The house, which is in the Greek Revival style, is back on a long lane, which was in the past old Highway 27. Its old clapboards have been covered with shingles and the shutters are gone, which would add much to the appearance of the house as it stands today. The rooms are quite nice sized, and the floors and woodwork are original, except for a few doors. The front door portico is original.

The cabin where Nathaniel and Sarah lived before the house was built was supposed to have been "in the garden"; but the site of the garden has been changed, so its location is difficult to know for sure.

At one time the whole end of the kitchen was a large fireplace, but it had been completely torn down, except for the foundation remains in the basement. The stones that are still there have been whitewashed or painted.

The old beams in the basement that support the house are large logs that were hewn to fit into each other, not really squared off but left nearly in their natural state, excepting for their tops where the flooring fits onto them.

There was a small bedroom just off the kitchen, which was Sarah's bedroom. In most old houses this was called the "borning room" because it was where the mother and her newborn babies stayed. Being next to the fireplace, it was warmer than the other bedrooms.

The old corncrib, with its pegged beams and original siding nailed with square nails, is there but falling into ruin. We thought this to be the blacksmith shop, until Parker Fitch corrected us on that. Its foundation is marked by a pile of stones. (The corncrib was gone by 1973.)

More on the Vigilantes - Regulators

**"Don't steal this for fear of life,
For don't you see the butcher knife?"**

(written by Nathaniel Fitch in one of his books)

Among the family stories related in last year's Newsletter was one about Nathaniel Fitch and Jacob Kell (Carolyn Kell's other grandfather) who helped to organize a local vigilante group to stop criminals (largely horse thieves) in the absence of a county sheriff. Research at the Fort Wayne/Allen County Historical Society provided some additional information on the subject of vigilantes or regulators, as they were called.

"An organized gang of desperadoes who terrorized the entire northern portion of Indiana in the forties and fifties became so bold in the commission of their crimes that the state legislature in 1856 responded to the appeal of the law-abiding citizens to organize themselves into bands commonly known as 'regulators.' The law empowered them to capture criminals, give them a fair trial, and, if advisable, to inflict punishment of death.

"Gregory McDougal, a notorious leader of a band of horse thieves, robbers and murderers, was caught and tried in 1857 and hanged on January 26, 1858.

"Former Senator George V. Kell tells of a stable belonging to the thieves located in what at that time was a great wood, and only one-half mile southeast of the New York Central railway station at Huntertown." (This would put the stable within a couple of miles of the Fitch Homestead; and, while there is no evidence that Nathaniel or Jacob participated in this particular event, it is very likely that they did.)

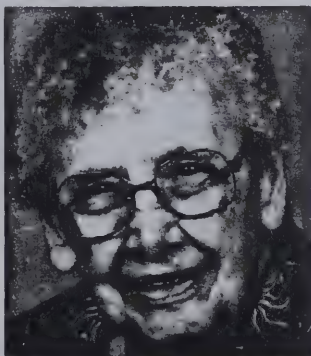
The source for this information, *The Pictorial History of Fort Wayne, Indiana*, by B.J. Griswold (1917), also states that Mathias and David Fitch participated as regulators. Since Mathias was born in 1843 and David in 1865, their involvement would have had to have been at some later time.

The Youngest Fitch



Hannah E. Davis

The Oldest Fitch



Esther Doll Fitch

Hannah Davis, the youngest Fitch descendant known to the family historian, was born on November 12, 1994, and is a great, great, great granddaughter of David Fitch and the daughter of Sarah and Jason Davis. **Esther Doll**, aged 94, was born on April 28, 1900, and married Otis Fitch, Mathias' grandson, on December 30, 1926.



The windshield of Kenneth Beer's automobile after his meeting with the John Dillinger gang in South Bend IN.

The Fitches Meet the Dillinger Gang

Another of our Fitch cousins had a brush with Indiana's criminal element, albeit years after the 19th century regulators.

Kenneth Beers, Jennie's oldest son, was active in Fitch Family Reunions for many years, acting as the Reunion secretary from 1911 to 1914 and taking many Reunion photos, some of which were bound in small albums with comments for participants.

His fascinating story of growing up as a Methodist minister's son was published in the book, "Jennie's Family", but one event of historical note was not included in his autobiography. Thanks to Bob Beers, Kenneth's nephew, we can share that story with you.

In June or early July, 1934, Kenneth and his wife May were driving through South Bend, Indiana (possibly on the way from their home in Chicago to the Reunion in Fort Wayne). As they approached a corner, a man came running out of a bank and began shooting with a machine gun to stop the traffic; so that John Dillinger and his gang, who were robbing the bank, would have no trouble in reaching their get-away car and escaping. Machine gun bullets went through the front windshield of Kenneth's car and passed out through the back window, but neither Kenneth nor May were hurt.

May wrote on the back of a postcard with the accompanying photos, "A pole through holes - front to back - passes through steering wheel. Puzzled - Where was Kenneth? He does not know, except that we were both there." Bob says that Kenneth and May climbed out of the car and huddled on the running board (something that the younger generations may need explained) until the Dillinger gang had departed.

Family Stories Available

"Memoirs of Charles O. Fitch" by C.O. Fitch

"The Stratton Family" by Marguerite S. Nobles

Jennie's Family edited by Bill Cassell

Contact Bill Cassell, the Family Historian for details

- Reunion from Page 1 -

the Reunion so as to have a mini-reunion of their own on Friday, August 19, which was thought to be a good idea, given how fast the Reunion hours sped by. They also had the opportunity to tour the area, including the Bicentennial Woods, before it rained.

Betty Fitch and her husband, Warren, along with Carolyn Davis, made the local preparations that made the event a success. Their excellent foresight guaranteed us a dry, air-conditioned, wheelchair accessible location with plenty of tables and chairs, a kitchen, drinks, condiments, rolls, etc. Betty went so far as to prepare door prizes for each table: Mason jars of dirt from the Homestead, each with an identifying photo and note of provenance, rocks from the Homestead and small pieces of wood cut by the Fitch sawmill.

Our cousins started showing up early, bearing the most incredible collection of foods, which is apparently a Fitch Reunion tradition. (Both Betty and Carolyn said not to worry about coordinating "who brings what". "It all just works out," they said, and they were right.) Someone brought the traditional jar of beets, but the Family Historian never got the recipe. Enid Honeick and Joan Dove greeted folks as they arrived and made sure that they had name tags and were signed up for the door prize drawings.

As the platters and bowls began to jockey for position on the serving tables, family photos and artifacts were laid out on other tables. Jennie's granddaughter, Lucille Cassell, brought Jennie's wedding sheets, her yak lace cape, her college graduation dress and a blanket made from Fitch wool on the family loom at the Homestead. David's descendants displayed some beautiful woven goods from the same loom.

In addition to chatting and, in one case, doing a bit of business, Nathaniel's descendants browsed through the family photo albums and helped to identify people in 60 to 70 year old Reunion photos, including a few that were enlarged to poster size for easier viewing. Complete lists of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch descendants (vital records and addresses) were distributed, as were maps that identified Fitch lands in 1880.

About noon the artifact tables were cleared, and Bill Cassell welcomed everyone to the Reunion and introduced Sister M. Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch), who gave the invocation. A marvelous "carry-in" or "potluck" luncheon followed, with enough food left over to repeat the process at least a second time.

Bill called the "business meeting" to order after folks had gotten their desserts and coffee. Betty, Warren and Carolyn were thanked by a hearty round of applause for their invaluable assistance in organizing the Reunion; after which the representatives of each family (e.g. Amos') were asked to stand and be recognized.

Bill presented the Treasurer's Report, as follows:

Beginning Balance - 7/92	\$165.00
(from the Fitch Fund)	
Contributions thru 8/19/94	1,305.00
(28 donors)	

Expenses

Fall '92 Newsletters	-265.94
Updating addresses, etc.	-284.92
Copying photos	-141.77
Portrait framing	- 77.98
Fall '93 Newsletters	-691.22
Spring '94 Newsletters	-179.12
Reunion posters, tags, maps	-133.93
Total Expenses	-1,774.88
Net Deficit	-304.88
Contribution from Jennie's Family	304.88
Balance before the Reunion - 8/19/94	0.00

The traditional Fitch hat was passed at the Reunion, and \$433.00 was collected. In addition, Betty Fitch passed along \$147.52 in Reunion contributions that she received in excess of what she spent on the Reunion, leaving us with \$580.52 at the end of the Reunion.

[Since the Reunion, we have received gifts of \$165 and have spent \$147.47 copying and printing old family photos for interested cousins and \$75.00 renewing our 3rd class mailing permit. This leaves us with \$523.05 for the '94 Newsletter, which was estimated at \$430.00 before the recent postage increase. Depending on the number of pages that we run, we should be OK financially.]

Sister M. Alma Louise read the list of kin who had passed away since January, 1992, and Bill read the list of births since then. Betty Fitch read letters from cousins who could not attend the Reunion, and a few cousins passed along stories about "the old times". [See "I Remember" Page 11] Drawings were held for the door prizes, which included two pairs of 8 x 10 photos of Nathaniel and Sarah.

Before the business meeting was adjourned, the possibility of future Reunions was discussed. In general, the participants thought that there should be future Reunions but that they should run for two days (perhaps a Friday evening & Saturday or a Saturday & Sunday). There was a consensus that there just wasn't enough time to get acquainted at a 5-hour affair, and that kin coming from a distance should have more Reunion to justify their trips.

Also, there was a consensus that major Fitch Reunions should be held every two or three years, not every year. So, our next Fitch Family Reunion will probably be a two-day affair in the summer of 1996 or 1997, with at least some of the Reunion activities at the Fitch Homestead [see "Homestead"].

While no one got to play outdoors because of the rain, just about everyone did indulge in the traditional "all-you-can-eat" ice cream event. There were tales of how, as children, some of our elder cousins had hidden their first cones behind their backs, so as to get seconds right away. This year the ice cream and cones were contributed in memory of Mel Mason, Ida Fitch's husband, who for many years brought and served the ice cream at Reunions. The 1915 Reunion was held at the Masons' home in New Haven, Indiana.

After 4:00pm an ad hoc committee of volunteers cleaned up the pavilion, and the 1994 Fitch Family Reunion was officially over.



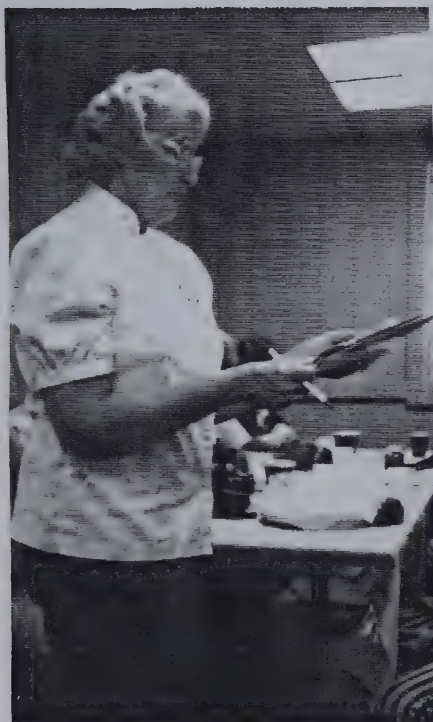
(L-R) Sara Fair Sleeper and Barbara Hulsizer of Francelia's family share lunch with Phyllis Fitch of Harvey's family .

1994 Fitch Family Reunion

August 20, 1994
Fort Wayne, Indiana



(L-R) Lucille Cassell and Bob Beers of Jennie's family in front of a display of old family photos.



Betty Fitch of Mathias' family reads letters from absent cousins.



Lunch with David's family at the Reunion (L-R) Alice Reimann, Charlotte Wuepper, Alice Deck, Jo Fitch, Jim Fitch, John Wuepper, Mary Belle Brogren, Francia Mann and Emily Birdsall. Sharon Gloyd in the right background.

Sarah DeLong Fitch and Her Family
At the Fitch Homestead in 1884



Sarah DeLong Fitch and Her Family At the Fitch Homestead for the 1884 Family Reunion

1. Sarah DeLong Fitch, Nathaniel's widow
2. Levi Beers, Jennie's husband
3. Jennie Fitch Beers
4. Allen Hartzell, Emma's husband
5. Frances Fitch, Mathias' wife
6. Perry Fitch
7. Nancy Fitch, Amos' wife
8. Sarah Fitch Stratton
9. Amos Fitch

10. Harvey Fitch
11. Irving Stratton, Sarah's husband
12. Ida Alice Fitch
13. Mathias Fitch
14. Fitelia Fitch Gloyd
15. Jerome Gloyd, Fitelia's husband
16. David Fitch
17. Emma Fitch Hartzell

(Some of these identifications are tentative. If you can identify any others or want to make corrections, contact Bill Cassell.)

The photo on page 6 is from a stereoptic card with a pair of identical images designed to be viewed through a stereoptic viewer. The result is a 3-dimensional image of Sarah DeLong Fitch standing almost in your lap and everyone else in varying degrees of appropriate background. It's probably a product of Shoaff Photographers.

Mathias Fitch's House by Betty Fitch (1973)

Mathias Fitch built his home on the Fitch Road in 1878, up on a hill from the sawmill and carding mill. Today there are three original buildings standing. The house, the barn and an old hog barn, which was the old carding mill that they moved up the hill and put on a concrete foundation. The foundation is crumbling badly and may undermine the building soon.

The house was very much as it is today, especially from the outside. Earlier in this century, the front porch was built, and the house was sided with shingles. John Fitch did much of this work. Inside a few partitions have been removed (to make the rooms larger), a bathroom was added and the kitchen was remodeled.

The doors are butternut which was cut at the sawmill, as was the oak and butternut woodwork. By the construction, I would say that Mathias did much of the work himself. It is not the gingerbread type that was very popular in those days.

Mathias got his drinking water from a spring below the hill. They carried it up in buckets. Whenever he went to visit his farms in Iowa, he got an upset stomach and diarrhea because he couldn't stand the water there. He went out to check his Iowa land holdings about once a year.

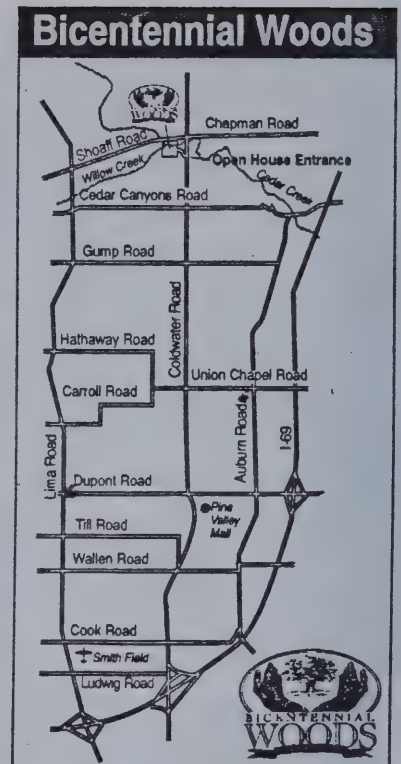
There used to be a tenants' house right across the road, where Mathias had his help live. Other Fitches also lived there from time to time. John and Belle Fitch lived there, as did Warren and I for the first two years of our marriage.



The house built by Mathias Fitch in 1878 on Fitch Road. The house is now gone, but the barn and carding mill remain on the property.



Richard and Phyllis Fitch explore the Bicentennial Woods west of the Fitch Homestead. They are standing near what is believed to be the location of Nathaniel Fitch's original log cabin, built around 1838.



Fitch Land Becomes Bicentennial Woods

In 1993 the western 80 acres of what was the Fitch Homestead property were purchased by ACRES, a conservation group that acquires natural areas in northeast Indiana and opens them for hiking and nature study. The land has been named the Bicentennial Woods, in conjunction with Fort Wayne's 200th Anniversary celebration in 1994.

David Fitch, who had inherited the Homestead tract of 160 acres when Nathaniel died in 1877, sold the eastern 80 acres and the Homestead to his brother Harvey in 1893. David's 80 acres were subsequently purchased by Frederick Kell and his wife Bessie, who was Mathias' daughter and David's niece. Bessie's daughter, Mary Ellen Arnold, sold the property to ACRES with the understanding that the woods would remain in its natural state.

"It is the last piece of virgin timber in Allen County," said Eli Arnold, one of Mary Ellen's sons. "Without a secure place for it to go, it would be gone. You can't start a forest over, especially one like that. You can't get 200-year-old trees to grow like that....We are confident that it's in good hands."

Since most woodlands were timbered for lumber or firewood in the last century, it is unlikely that many of us have seen a near-virgin forest. In the uplands of the Bicentennial Woods (yes, there are lowlands or wetlands, too) there are massive white oaks and black oaks, some 4 feet in diameter, which could make them 300 to 500 years old. Giant sycamores grow down by Willow Creek and another clear-running stream that feed Cedar Creek. Butternut trees, which have been destroyed by disease in most other places, grow in these woods.

The gravel floor of the forest is cushioned with a

thick layer of black loam, and large fallen and rotting trees abound. A profusion of wildflowers, including trillium and geraniums, grow in the forest, along with mushrooms, nettles, poison ivy and garlic mustard.

There are very few stumps in the woods. In 1937 or 1938 Mary Ellen's husband, Dewey Arnold, took some logs from the woods for a barn that later burned down, and in the 1960's three black cherry trees were cut for making veneer. Mary Ellen recalls that a flock of sheep once grazed in the forest.

ACRES has blazed a few trails through the woods and plans some additional trails. A small parking lot is located on Shoaff Road, just west of Coldwater Road, north of Fort Wayne. At the back of the lot is an all-weather box which contains trail maps and a guest registry. It should be noted that this is not a "walk in the park", so sturdy shoes and slacks are suggested.

To their credit, David's descendants who attended the Reunion explored the Bicentennial Woods the day before the Reunion.

Once More: Where is the Fitch Flag?

Perry's grandson, Ivan Fitch, was very active in the Reunions, and he may have had the Civil War Fitch Flag, sewed by Perry's sisters. His widow, "Nancy" Nina Davis Fitch, died in 1979. They had no children, so Nancy's nieces may have inherited things. She was from Marion IN. Can anyone help us locate her nieces or their descendants? Contact Bill Cassell, if you can help.

Nathaniel and Sarah's Children...

Before their hair was grey

Most of the photos that we see of Nathaniel and Sarah's children show them in their elder years, looking very much like "grandpas" or "grandmas".

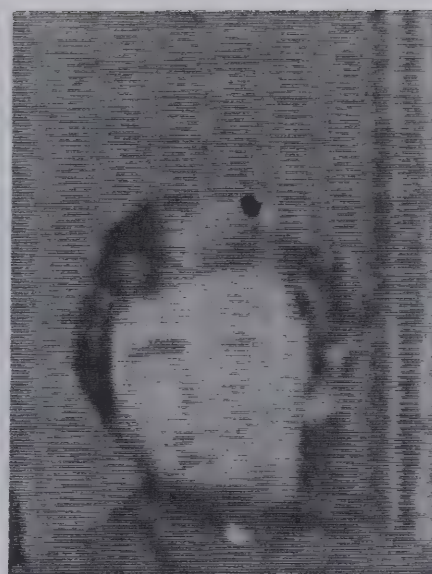
Very few early photos of the children appear to exist. None have been found of the twins, Francelia and Fitelia. A copy of a group photo of the boys, which was taken around 1874, is in the family's possession.

Thanks to Margie Beers Ozanne, we also have early individual photos of Sarah, Ida, Emma and Jennie.

If you have any photos of these "children", please send them (well wrapped and insured) to the Bill Cassell for photographic duplication.



Allen Fitch (age 17)



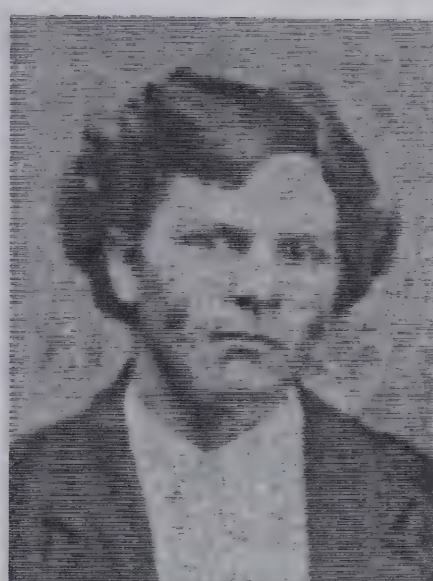
David Fitch (age 9)



Mary Jane "Jennie" Fitch (age 16?)



Amos Fitch (age 25)



Harvey Fitch (age 21)



Jennie Fitch Beers (age 65?)



(L-R) Allen, David, Amos and Harvey at a Fitch Family Reunion around 1932 (?).



(L-R) Sarah Fitch Stratton (age 74), Helen Bowlby, Emma Fitch Hartzell (age 68), Fitelia Fitch Gloyd (age 78), Ida Fitch Mason (age 70) and Francelia Fitch Fair (age 78)



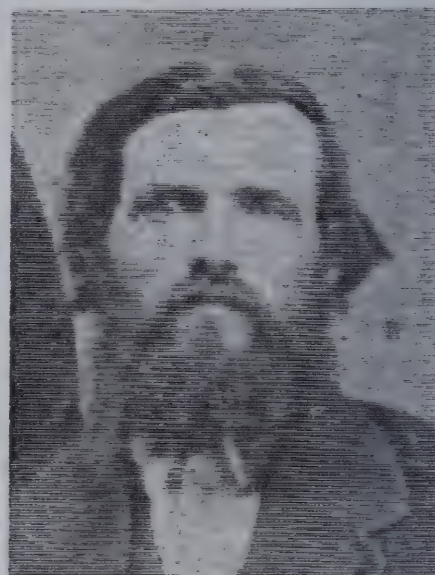
Mathias Fitch (age 31)



Emma Fitch (Age Unknown)



Ida Alice Fitch (age 22)



Perry Fitch (age 32)



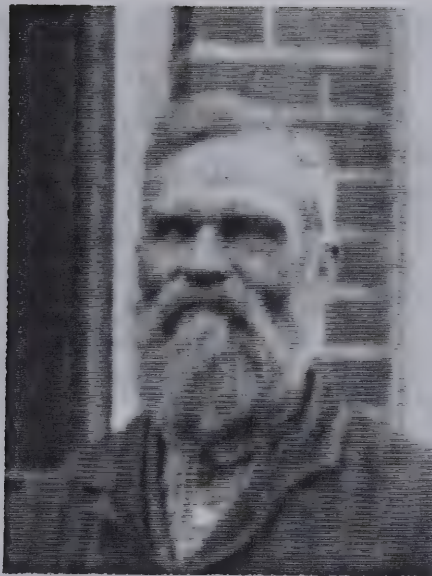
Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton (age 28?)



Charles Fitch (age 28)



Perry Fitch (age unknown)



Mathias Fitch (Date Unknown)

I remember...

Personal recollections are very important in making our Fitch history come to life for the younger members of the family. If you have any recollections of the "old days", the Fitch historian would love to receive them, either written or taped.

Dick Houser, who was born in 1918 and is the grandson of Amos and Nancy Fitch and the son of Marie Fitch and Arthur Houser, recalls:

"In the early twenties and thirties, my parents would spend Sunday afternoons and evenings at the (Amos) Fitch Farm in DeKalb County. My dad particularly enjoyed going out there because it gave him some relief from his busy "city" responsibilities...Garrett being a metropolis of 4500 people. Although my dad never smoked, he knew how to stay on the good side of Amos...He would bring him a White Owl cigar each time we went to the farm. I can still see Grandpa Amos sitting back in his porch chair, thoroughly enjoying his once-a-week pollution of the environment. Even I occasionally sense his satisfaction when I indulge in this much-maligned habit.

"Grandpa Amos loved to fish, and on what I considered special occasions, would take me with him into the woods where we would sit by the "Backwater" for hours, watching the bullheads nibble the bait off our hooks. The "Backwater" was a U-shaped section of Cedar Creek which had been by-passed in an earlier dredging operation. Bullheads were never more than 10 inches long, and the infrequently found sun-fish in the main stream of Cedar Creek were even smaller. He always admonished me to be careful and not get horned by the catfish whiskers. To this day I'm not sure whether he was serious or just pulling my leg.

"I remember one day in particular, when I was swatting mosquitoes and dodging dragon flies, my straw hat slipped out of my hands and went sailing down stream. He

muttered something under his breath, grabbed a long branch, slipped and slid along the gravel bank, till the hat came to a bend in the creek, where he recovered the wandering headpiece. If I recall correctly, we didn't do much fishing after that, he probably thinking that it wasn't worth the effort. This wasn't all bad because I had had my fill of no-bites, no fish, and bugs galore. To this day I have politely refused to go fishing with anybody, no matter how high the bribe or how friendly the fish.

"Amos was always very progressive and had a knack of devising his own tools. He made a special hedge trimming knife from a discarded scythe blade, probably motivated by the long hedges paralleling his front yard to the road with a longer section running along the road to the woods west of the house.

"He built a retaining wall around a spring in a hill next to the woods west of his house. Then piped this water to a hydraulic ram at a lower level on the hill. This then pumped water to a tank in the house and a watering trough at the barn. He was always tinkering with leather gaskets and valves at the ram.

"He was the first and maybe the only farmer in his area to power his home and barns with electricity. He and his son, Roland, installed a Delco power plant, the wiring and the batteries to run small DC motors and lights in all the buildings. This may have been the brainchild of Roland, who graduated from Purdue in Electrical Engineering in 1912.

"The house was heated by a furnace which could take logs 5 or 6 feet long--this may be exaggerated but to me they seemed very long. The woods provided plenty of fuel as long as the trees were felled and split and cut to the proper lengths. Hauling those longs to the house and storing them in the basement posed problems, so he utilized two steel wheels from an abandoned vehicle to make a very low-slung wagon. This was much more convenient to load and unload stacked cargo. Since I had demonstrated some sketching ability, he asked me to provide some drawings which he submitted to some farm magazine for publication.

"It is ironic that with all this desire to try new things, Grandpa Amos never owned a tractor. He continued to use horsepower for plowing, discing, mowing and binding. I can remember following him and his horses pulling a single bottom plow, walking furrow after furrow until you would think there was no end. Although he owned about 120 tillable acres, he probably worked no more than 90, which was no small feat, when you are relying on horses alone.

As I recall, it wasn't until the late twenties or early thirties that he had any hired help to assist in the farming. It was a big day during the threshing season when all the neighbors rolled in with their horses and wagons, and Custer Surfus chugged down the lane with his spanking new McCormick-Deering tractor towing the threshing machine. And Grandma Nancy and Aunt Gladys and sometimes Mom worked overtime to feed these hungry threshers at noon.

"I can also remember playing on an old rusting

tank in Grandpa Amos' orchard. It had a lot of push rods and valves and, in a child's vivid imagination, could easily be converted into a steam engine or even a space ship. When I asked what this was, my mother told me that they once had acetylene lamps installed in the house and that this was an acetylene generator that had been placed in a brick-enclosed well near the house. However, her dad had become concerned over the safety of this concept and had abandoned the system upon hearing of several explosions."

Vic Fitch, who was born in 1936 and is the great-grandson of Perry and Sarah, grandson of William and Lucinda Fitch and son of Forrest and Viola Fitch, recalls:

"Dad and I spent a great deal of time hunting and riding around Fitch territory, which were many of our best times. I enjoyed listening to the tales of his youth. Of family gatherings at the farm on Fitch Road, which is now a county road between the Allen-DeKalb County Line Road and County Road 68. Stories of how men would gather outside the big bank barn and whistle to get a woodchuck to stand up and then shoot him with a .22 rifle. The reason being that the horses would step in the groundhog holes and break a leg.

"How I enjoyed visiting and hunting the Amos Fitch farm and seeing Cousin Gladys and the horses and livestock. Quite a change for a "city boy". Hunting the woods and slipping through it on cowpaths was quite a treat. But "skinny dipping" in Cedar Creek was the most pleasure. Dad and I always went hunting on my birthday (August 30), and that was part of it. There were times it was too hot to hunt and the perspiration would just drip off of us, and mosquitoes "as big as B-29's" would pester us crazy in spite of bathing in citronella. The creek was the only relief. But by the time we dressed and walked up to the house with no further thought of hunting, Dad would be almost sick from the heat.

"Another story that I enjoyed was how a Fitch boy was sweet on a young lady whose father would have no part of it. He refused to even let the Fitch boy on their farm and made the young lady marry someone of his choosing. When their first child was born, there was no mistaking that it was a Fitch! For history's sake, it's probably just as well that their names are long since forgotten.

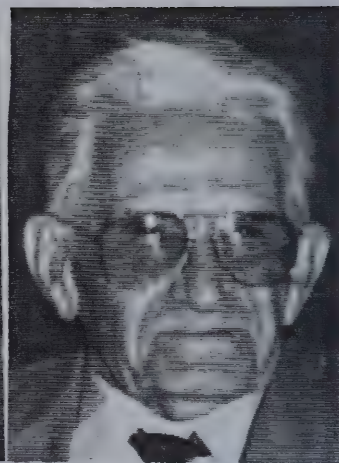
"Stories of Mathias Fitch who was so "cross-eyed" that you couldn't tell where he was looking but that he seldom ever missed a rabbit with a shotgun. Si also raised rabbits but wasn't real careful about making certain that the hutches were latched. His rabbits crossbred with the cottontails in the swamp. Biggest rabbits you ever saw!

"A story was told of Claude Fitch (Mathias' youngest son, born 1880) courting in his horse and buggy, falling asleep on the way home and waking up when the horse stopped in front of the barn. On another occasion Claude was startled awake when the interurban trolley roared past as the horse waited patiently at the crossing.

"Also I recall stories of how Dad and Jake Kell (Mathias' grandson, born 1904) were the dandies of the area, and the times they had together. Huntertown was



Jake Kell (age 17?)



Jake Kell (age 90)

never the same!

"I used to enjoy going to reunions at Cedarville, Huntertown, City Utilities park. It was after one of them at City Utilities Park that Cousin Rawles Moudy and his wife invited me to spend a week with their three kids on the farm at the corner of old Auburn and Union Chapel Roads. I remember helping with chores, playing in the haymow, riding the tractor while discing extremely rough ground and taking a bath on Saturday night in a galvanized tub. Now THAT was different!"

The Fitch Coat of Arms

If you are like most of us, in the course of your life you will receive a mailing that will offer you a copy of your family coat of arms...for a small fee, of course. Thanks to research done by Carolyn Davis and Roscoe Conkling Fitch, we can save you the expense and provide you with a copy of the Fitch Coat of Arms. You never know when it will come in handy. I recently carved it into the upper back rail of a small cherry armchair that I built for my son.

From the History of the Fitch Family, 1400 to 1930 by Roscoe Conkling Fitch:

"The Fitch Coat of Arms has a very ancient origin and the right to the use of the Arms has been a proud prerogative of succeeding generations through the centuries.

"There are few families in America who can trace their ancestry as far back as the established English 'Pedegree of Fitch' or use as ancient a coat of arms by official recognition.

"The claim of the descendants of Thomas Fitch, Esq. of Bocking, County Essex, England, father of four Fitch brothers who settled in Connecticut to the use of both ancient and 16th century Fitch Arms was proven to satisfaction by the New England Historic Genealogical Society by Winchester Fitch, Esq. who submitted his proofs to the Committee on Heraldry and the Fitch Arms were included in the Society's "Roll of Arms".

"The Fitch Family is one of 72 American families -

- Coat of Arms from Page 12 -

thus enrolled.

"The shield or escutcheon is the field on which the bearings are grouped; it is described as 'vert' meaning green - signifying mirth, love, gladness.

"A chevron means a bar of two pieces coming together, rafted like, forming an inverted 'V'.

"The width of the arms is one fifth of the length of the shield; its ornamentation is described as or meaning gold or yellow - signifying power or sovereignty.

"Among animals on Coat of Arms the lion holds most important place, as early as the twelfth century the king of beasts was assumed as an appropriate emblem for arms of Dukes. The leopard as the emblem for Arms of Lords.

"That the Fitches were warriors of brave heart and strong arm is proven by the Fitch Coat of Arms, for the chevron betokens achievement of important trusts, and was given only to military leaders of great valor whose courage and prowess could be depended on in battle.

"The heraldic wreath is made up from the first two colors of the armorial bearings - green and yellow or gold. The wreath forms a support for the crest, a leopard's face of gold. This means that the head is yellow, borne on the wreath without any part of the neck showing - full faced.

"In his mouth a sword proper', means that the

sword is thrust through the mouth. The hilt of the sword is ready; this betokens 'strength and boldness with hardiness.'"

The Fitch Coat of Arms



Alice Nathalia Beers, Jennie's youngest child, patriotically dressed for a school program in about 1900, at age 16. As an adult, Alice attended Reunions and wrote down her aunts and uncles' stories, thereby giving us much of what we know about early Fitch life.



Joan Gladbach, Allen Fitch and James Moudy preparing to play croquet at the 1927 Fitch Family Reunion.

1932 Fitch Reunion at Amos Fitch's Home in DeKalb County, Indiana



1 David Fitch
2 Ivan Fitch
3 Harry Wert
4 Nancy (Mrs. Ivan) Fitch
5 Margaret (Mrs. Rolland Fitch
6 Iolene Gloyd
7 Ollie Fitch
7a Marie F. Houser
8 Arthur Houser
9 Bert Centennial Fitch

10 Marguerette F. Wert
11 Rolland Fitch
12 Gladys Fitch
12a Pearl F. Gladbach
13 Kenneth Beers
14 John B. Fitch
15 Forrest Fitch
16 Otis Gloyd
17 Jake Kell
18 Elsie Kell

19 Rawles Moudy
20 Amos Fitch
21 Richard Houser
22 Bess F. Kell
23 Harvey Fitch
24 Audrey Hursh
25 Etta (Mrs. Harvey) Fitch
26 Belle Fitch
27 Emma F. Hartzell

28 Nina F. Emrick
29 Sarah F. Stratton
30 Cecil F. McComb
31 Fittelia F. Gloyd
32 Ida Alice F. Mason
33 Erma F. More
34 Helen F. Hawver
35 Stella Gloyd
36 Verma F. Smith

37 David Davis
38 Enid Davis
39 Phyllis McComb
40 Elaine Houser
41 Mary Belle Hawver
42 Robert Gloyd
43 Joan Houser
44 Helen H. Hawver
45 Arvilla (Mrs. Otis) Gloyd

Photo taken by Kenneth Beers. Other photos of this reunion are available.



Four Generations of Fitches: Sarah DeLong Fitch (L) with her son, Perry Fitch (R), her grandson, William S. Fitch (standing) and her great grandson, Victor W. Fitch in late 1893 or early 1894. (We're looking for more inter-generational photos, new and old, for another Newsletter feature. See back page for address)



Looking south in bustling downtown Huntertown, Indiana, sometime before automobiles made their presence known. The back of the photo reads: " Mercantile...Old hotel in back. Blacksmith/old gas station. 1st street turn on to go west." Does any one recognize landmarks or remember more about Huntertown's past?



At Amos Fitch's home. Date unknown. (Enlarged photos, counter-clockwise from above) (L - R) Harvey Fitch and Jerome Gloyd; (Bottom to Top) Two children (?), Etta (Mrs. Harvey) Fitch, Della Gloyd, Nancy (Mrs. Amos) Fitch, Sarah Fitch Stratton; boy beside post (?) NOTE: These identifications have been made after the fact and may not be correct. Your assistance would be appreciated in completing and correctly identifying our Fitch kin in these photos.



(From Top, L - R) Sarah DeLong Fitch, Francelia Fitch Fair, Francis (Mrs. Mathias) Fitch, Fitelia Fitch Gloyd, ?, Stella Gloyd (Can anyone identify the unknown young ladies?)



(From Top, L - R) Otis Gloyd, Rolland Fitch, Emma Belle (Mrs. David) Fitch and Amos Fitch



(L - R) Marguerite Stratton, Marguerette Fitch, Helen Stratton & Marie Fitch



(L - R) Amos Fitch, David Fitch and Mathias Fitch

A Gathering of Perry's and Fitelia's Children

(circa 1907, location unknown)



Identification of Above Photo



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Pearl Fitch (P) | 10 Ethiel Badiac |
| 2 ? | 11 William Fitch (P) |
| 3 Otis Gloyd (F) | 12 Stella Gloyd (F) |
| 4 Della Gloyd (F) | 13 Frank Fitch (P) |
| 5 Kelsey Fitch (P) | 14 ? |
| 6 George Fitch (P) | 15 Victor W. Fitch (P) |
| 7 Homer Bowser | 16 Fred W. Fitch (P) |
| 8 Norma Gloyd Moudy (F) | 17 ? |
| 9 Claude Fitch (P) | 18 ? |
- (P) = Perry Descendant; (F) = Fitelia Descendant

Does anyone know why Homer Bowser and Ethel Badiac are in this photo? Can anyone identify the ?'s above? Probably in Perry's or Fitelia's families.



The gravestone of Nathaniel's mother, Sarah Keeler Fitch, in Fitch's Cemetary, Falls Township, Pennsylvania. Born in Ridgefield, Connecticut, on June 26, 1785, Sarah was the daughter of Paul Keeler, Jr., a trumpeter in the Revolutionary Army in Sheldon's Light Horse Brigade of Connecticut. This connection qualifies lineal Fitch descendants for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Can You Identify Any of These Fitches?

Make a Xerox copy of the photo(s) on which you can write the names of the people you know and send it to Bill Cassell.



We have a number of photos from this Reunion, none of which have any identification on them. Can anyone tell us the year and location of this photo? Note the gingerbread on the porch roof in the upper right. Other photos from this Reunion include Amos, Harvey, David, Ida, Fitelia and Francelia and a host of other Fitches.



Children at a Fitch Reunion, possibly in the early 1930's. Does anyone recognize themselves or a parent among these charming Fitch children, know the photo's date or location? Note the chairs inside the building to the rear.

417 Dalgren

482-2993



Carolyn Kell's High School Graduation Photo



Carolyn Kell Davis (age 93), the 2nd oldest member of the Fitch family



Sister M. Alma Louise, C.S.C (Mary Louise Fitch), past family historian

A Hearty Fitch Thank You To:

Betty and Warren Fitch (and their extended family) and Carolyn Davis for all the work that they did to make the Reunion a success.

All of you who sent me old photos or Reunion photos and/or helped to identify people in those photos.

Those who have given their financial support since the last Newsletter -- Phyllis R. Brown, Lucille Cassell, Sr. M. Alma Louise, James B. Shaffer, Bud McComb, Christina Scofield, Carolyn Davis, Suzy Enyeart, Derek Lyon, William D. Fitch, Bob Beers, Elaine Kirbach, Barbara Hulsizer, Susan Bowling, Carl, Richard and Joan Schafer, Evelyn and Bob Gloyd, Helen F. Silha, Hazel Hardwich, Gail and Jim Johnston, Richard Houser, Ken and Linda Moudy, Bill and Bernadine Cassell, Eileen Fitch, Richard and Phyllis Fitch, Alice Reimann, Joan Dove, Charlotte Wuepper, Mary Belle Brogren, Alice Deck, Barbara Ann Kelham, Sara Fair Sleeper and Francina Mann plus all the unnamed Fitch descendants who sent checks to Betty Fitch to support the Reunion and those who gave \$278 in cash when the hat was passed at the Reunion

Those who contributed funds in memory of:

Ruth Bowlby Schafer
Mel and Ida Fitch Mason
Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers
Alice Beers Kephart

The "Save the Homestead" Committee of Maggie Vegeler, William H. Fitch, Bill Cassell and Phyllis Fitch. (You can see that this is a small, elite group just waiting for volunteers. Contact the Bill Cassell for more information.)

And all of you who have sent me notes and called with encouragement. Thank you so very much!!



The sources of my involvement with Fitch history: My mother, Lucille Cassell (seated), who thoughtfully saved boxes of old family photos and documents from her mother, aunts and uncles and my sister, Sandra Peterson, who carefully sorted through a household to locate the family materials for me. That's me, on the right, at the 1994 Reunion.

Bill Cassell

To reach your Fitch Family Historian, write or call:

Bill Cassell 617-862-6172
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

We're still looking for family recollections, artifacts and photos (esp. of Charles Fitch's family and inter-generational ones like that on page 15).

We also need your support in saving the Homestead. And, last but not least, we need funding for future Newsletters, photo duplication, etc. Please make checks payable to: Bill Cassell

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 1996

In Memory of Carolyn Kell Davis

6/8/1901 - 5/11/1995



We are sad to report that one of the Fitch Family's most active supporters passed away last year at 93. Carolyn attended all of our family reunions from the early 1920's through the one she helped organize in 1994.

Carolyn was also the author of the 1972 Fitch Family genealogy book. She will be missed.

From his personal journals:

The Life & Times of Mathias Fitch



Mathias Fitch's saw mill (foreground) was built by his father, Nathaniel Fitch, in 1840. Mathias added a feed-grinder and operated the mill until 1908. The mill is gone, but the 6-foot water turbine that powered it can still be seen near where the mill stood. Mathias is the man on the left.

Bringing Home the Beau

by Jennie Fitch Beers' son, Kenneth Beers

One of Jennie's fellow students at Hillsdale College expecially impressed her. The liking was mutual, and the buds of romance were almost bursting into bloom.

"He insisted on returning home with me," Jennie said, "and gave me no opportunity to send word in advance of our arrival. When we stepped from the train at Stoner's Crossing, our flag stop railway station, a brother was waiting to drive me home.

"My escort was dressed in the latest city fashion, striped trousers and a white collar such as my brothers had never dared wear for fear of family ridicule -- or worse. Hat in hand, he helped me from the train and into the carriage. I introduced him to my brother who, tongue-tied with astonishment and in great haste to spread the news at home, urged the horse to top speed on our two mile journey.

"When we got abreast of the foot log across the creek between the road and the old school house, well, my brother could stand it no longer. Throwing the lines, he

See Courting Disaster - Pg 15

Throughout most of his life, Mathias Fitch, Nathaniel's second son, maintained a daily journal of his activities and finances. Thanks to his great grandson, Robert E. Fitch, we have access to Mathias' journals from 1888 to 1910, when he was 67.

What he recorded on a daily basis gives us an appreciation of what it was like to live among the Fitches near Hometown, Indiana, about 100 years ago. His journals tell us about the weather, about managing his farms and mills and about family as well as personal activities. His journals were also his business ledgers, where he recorded his expenses, debts and receivables.

See Mathias Journals - Pg. 5

In This Issue:

Old Photos from Mathias and Sarah Fitch's Collections
An Update on the Status of the Fitch Homestead
Old Fitch Family Recipes
A Story of Courting Disaster at the Fitch Homestead
A Recent Wedding that Links Old Fitch Families
Found: A Photo of Young Fitch
The Upcoming 1997 Fitch Family Reunion

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Thanks to the generosity of many Fitch cousins, we have avoided a deficit since the '94 Reunion, even though we published a regular Newsletter for 380 descendant families and a special Newsletter for 40 descendants who were born before 1930. We also re-photographed about 80 old family photographs and sent copies of them to 20 of our "elder" kin, in the hopes that they could identify some of them. (And they did.)

It should be noted that the original 3rd class postage for our Winter '95 Newsletter was only \$118. The additional \$80 resulted from paying the Post Office for address corrections when someone had moved and for remailing their Newsletters at 1st class rates. We can save that \$1.30 per Newsletter if we have correct addresses.

The special Newsletter mentioned above was sent out to elicit family background, stories, photos, recipes, etc. The results of this mailing are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As noted at the end of the accounting below, we will be in a deficit position when you receive this Newsletter, so your kind support would be appreciated in two ways: Financially via a contribution and by keeping me up-to-date on family address changes, births, marriages, divorces and deaths (especially since January, 1994).

Beginning Balance - 8/19/94 \$ 0.00

Contributions

'94 Reunion Hat Passing	\$433.00
Excess from Reunion Expenses	\$147.52
From Fitch Descendants	\$720.00
Sub-Total Income	\$1,300.52

Expenses

Winter '95 Newsletter	
Composition	\$ 59.45
Printing	\$360.62
Envelopes	\$ 29.40
Rubber Stamp	\$ 4.99
Postage	\$188.80
Photography Supplies & Printing	\$ 95.20
Sarah Stratton Photo ID Mailing	
Composition	\$ 26.82
Printing	\$ 21.60
Postage	\$ 20.20
Special Newsletter - Summer '95	
Composition	\$ 2.98
Printing	\$ 11.00
Postage	\$ 12.80
3rd Class Mail Permit Renewal	\$ 85.00
Miscellaneous Postage	\$ 21.20
Sub-total Expenses	\$940.06

Balance - 1/2/96 \$360.46

Estimated Cost of this Newsletter \$600.00
Projected Balance After Newsletter (\$240.00)

A 1997 Fitch Family Reunion?

At the 1994 Reunion, the frequency and duration of future Reunions was discussed, and it was generally agreed that our Reunions should be held every two or three years and should be longer, perhaps Friday through Sunday, so that there would be more time for socializing. This is especially important for out-of-state cousins.

Since we need to reserve a location early in January of the year we hold a Reunion, we need to do some planning now.

Are you interested in having a Fitch Family Reunion in Fort Wayne in the summer of 1997?

Would you be interested in having events on Friday evening, Saturday and/or Sunday?

If so, how would you suggest we manage such a Reunion? If you live in the Fort Wayne area, would you be willing to help organize the Reunion?

Drop me a note or give me a call with your Reunion thoughts. Many thanks.

Bill Cassell
 9 Independence Avenue
 Lexington MA 02173

617-862-6172

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Joan Dove	Linwood Fitch
Charlotte Wuepper	Mary Baird
Eileen & Glenn Fitch	Barbara Hulsizer
Mary Belle Brogren	William S. Fitch
Alice & Jerry Deck	Sr. M. Alma Louise
Barbara Ann Kelham	Robert Ozanne
Sara Fair Sleeper	Betty J. Richards
Francia Mann	Richard Houser
Betty & Warren Fitch	Helen H. Florsheim
Ellen Adams	

And to Lucille O. Cassell, my mother, whose open purse over the years kept our Fitch family history operation solvent. I am very glad that she was able to attend the '94 Fitch Reunion before she passed away last October.

A Newsletter Editor's Note

Have you ever wondered how I decide what gets into a Newsletter (or why there are so many Jennie and Mathias-related items)? While I try to select things that might interest our many cousins, I am limited by the material that I have available. You can help if you search your memories and attics for stories, photos, recipes, whatever!

Our Thanks to Dawn Stratton

In early 1995 Dawn Stratton, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton's great granddaughter, sent me a collection of more than 50 old photos from Sarah's album.

With the help of a number of Fitch "cousins", we were able to identify some of them as Fitches. Many others, alas, remain unidentified and could be from the Stratton side of the family or some of Sarah's friends.

This newsletter's photos of Perry, Amos, Fitelia and Frances Fitch and Levi Beers, as well as those on this page, came from her collection, which was copied for our archives.



Irvin Franklin Stratton, husband of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, born in 1848 and married to Sarah Elizabeth in 1881.



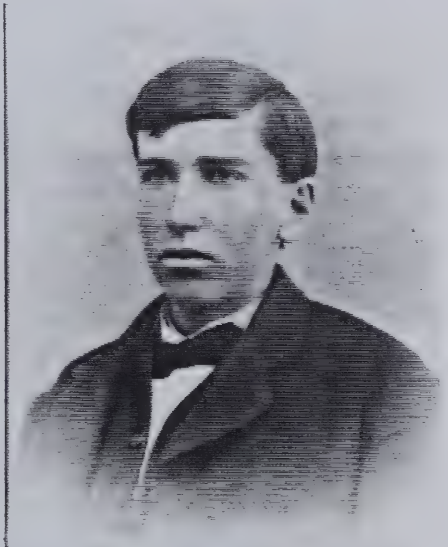
An unidentified woman from Sarah's collection. There were many such unidentified photos. If you want to look at these, write to Bill Cassell.



Ida Alice Fitch Mason, Nathaniel's 12th child, born in 1858 and married to Melville Mason, a dentist, in 1890.



Mary Jane "Jennie" Fitch Beers, Nathaniel's 3rd child, born 1844 and married to Levi Beers, a teacher and later a Methodist minister, in 1873.



Leander E. Stratton, 1st child of Sarah and Irvin Stratton, born in 1885 and married to Edna Beaver in 1910 and, after her death, to Clara Kolstad in 1919.



Fitch cousins in a wicker goat cart, c. 1914. (Standing) Mark E. Stratton, 1st child of Leander Stratton, born in 1912. (Seated in cart) Ruth H. Bowlby, 1st child of Helen Stratton Bowlby, born in 1912. Grandchildren of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton.

Early Work Experiences

We know how Nathaniel and some of his children began their working lives. What later generations did early in their careers may also be of interest.

Charles Oakley Fitch was born in 1878 in Hastings, Iowa, and soon moved to Minnesota, where his story takes place.

Kenneth Beers was born in 1876 in Wabash, Indiana. His family had moved to Illinois by 1893.

Starting Out

by Charles Oakley Fitch, son of Charles Fitch

As a boy, I had lots of jobs, including shining shoes and selling a paper called the *Saturday Blade*. I also made stove polish and did well selling it. I used to walk into their kitchens, polish up about a foot of the old kitchen range, and the sale was made. I have a receipt yet for making it, but the kitchen ranges are no more.

I was herdsman for the cows on the hill during one summer as nearly everyone of the residents kept a cow. I used a high wheeled bicycle with a little wheel in front and pedals about a foot long that worked up and down to propel the wheel instead of the kind that went round and round.

I used this wheel to round them up and bring them back at night. One day I hit a rock going down a hill and near broke my neck.

Another summer I herded 300 head of ewes for J. B. Firzherald at \$.50 per day. It was not so bad only lots of the ewes would have lambs during the day, and sometimes I had to carry one or two of them back to the yards at night.

I had a friend Harry Moe whose brother owned the *South St. Paul Daily Reporter*. We had jobs there during vacation and after school let out for the afternoon, and we were soon expert typesetters. We got \$.10 per hour. We fed press too. We made it go with pedals with our feet.

When the commission (livestock) houses moved to New Brighton on account of the 1897 flood, Father and Harry went to Chicago to work for a commission firm there. They sent very little money home. Things got pretty rough for Mother and me. She used to roast barley and use it in place of coffee. We had very little money. Then I quit school.

About that time I saw the first typesetting machine in the Pioneer Press building and decided that hand typesetting would not be so good, so I applied at the Smythe Printing Co. for a job to learn to do typesetting and make up the forms.

In the meantime I read an ad in the paper for a boy to work his way through school at the J.D. Hess School of Business in the Pioneer Press Building. When I opened their door, I think there must have been 25 boys there. Soon a door opened, and a tall red-haired man, Professor Coffey, appeared. He looked all around the room and beckoned to me to come in. I got the job.

My duties were to sweep the floor, and every Saturday to clean, oil and put new ribbons on the typewrit-

ers.

He asked if I had a bicycle. I told him that I did not but that I would get one. This was so when a business firm asked for a stenographer, I would wheel out to where they lived and tell them to come down to the office, as there were few phones at that time.

I went to Kennedy Bros. Arms Co. and bought a Columbia hard tired wheel for \$85, paying down \$10 and the balance to be \$10 a month. At the end of the month I told Coffey that I would have to quit, as I could not make payments on the wheel. He said, "Take it back, and you can use mine," which I did.

I had been there three months and had started taking dictation when, one Saturday morning, a little short man with a fiery full red beard came in and said he wanted a stenographer to work for him at his flour mill in New Prague, Minnesota. I told him that no one was there on Saturdays, and he said, "Well, why won't you do?"

I said that I was not quite through school yet, but that I could run a typewriter fast. He picked up a newspaper and started reading, and I could type as fast as he read. He said, "You'll do. Take the train to New Prague on Monday. Your salary will be \$35 a month." I agreed.



When the Columbian Exposition opened in Chicago in 1893, Kenneth Beers, aged 17, first worked as a "chair pusher" and was later accepted as an Exposition Guard with a fancy uniform. His earnings supplemented his family's meager income. Their home in North Harvey was opened to Exposition visitors, and the family slept in the attic throughout much of the Exposition.

Later he became an ice man, working for his father who started a coal and ice business. He filled refrigerators in meat markets.

His opportunity in the newspaper business came when he took his lunch, walked two miles to the office of the *Harvey Citizen* and announced that he had come to go to work. When he learned that someone else had been hired, he replied, "That's all right. I'll just stay and work for nothing anyway." And he stayed and was editor and publisher of that newspaper before he was 21.

January, 1888

Tues. 3 Clear, Moderate
Ground some feed. Fixed up shaft (of sawmill turbine). David (Fitch) her to get log boat. He got it to draw some logs. Schuyler (his son) helped at putting up shaft.

Wed. 4 Thawing
Worked at putting up shaft. Ground some. Amos Fitch and Jo Pepple drew some logs. Honek here. Kearkey here, got some of his grist. Went to schoolhouse to teach bookkeeping in the evening.

Thurs. 5 Cloudy, Thaw
Worked at shop. Made stand for grinder. Ground some. Boger here to see if I could shoe his horses. Going to bring them tomorrow. Worked at shafting some.

Fri. 6 Rain most of day
Worked in shop. Shod Boger's horses. J.J. Rundles here to get pipe tongs. Perry Gump here to get his grist. Was not done. Mike Beber here to get some lumber. Got a few pieces.

Sat. 7 Cloudy, Warm
Worked at putting up shaft and mill. Got it going. Ground some. Kearkey got his grist. Paid for it. Gave money to Schuyler 50 cts. Went to depot at Five Points. Schuyler went along.

Sun. 8 Mild
Drove down to Mother's. Took Schuyler and Althea to the Griffins. Came home. Read papers. Wrote some letters. Schuyler came home in P.M. Walter (a son), Bessie and Althea (daughters) at Griffins.

Mon. 9 Some colder
Went to Fort Wayne on the 10 o'clock train. Got dinner 25 cts, bridles \$6.50, shirts & overalls for John \$1.70. Sent to Western Rural \$3.40, leather pegs and ants \$1.45, rivets 40 cts, board \$1.25, ink, pens & chalk 60 cts, RR fare 10 cts.

Tues. 10 Colder
Staid all night in town at Langs. Attended annual meeting. Came home in the evening. Schuyler came to the train for me with team. He went to George Wilcock's to social.

Wed. 11 A little warm
Helped to grind some. Joe Whelset came got his grist & bought some lumber 25 cts. Went to schoolhouse in the evening, had class in bookkeeping.

Thur. 12 Thawed some
Fred Smith here with grist, is to get it one week from today. Ground some for ourselves.

Fri. 13 Cold
Worked in mill some & in barn. Cut partitions on stalls shorter. Something wrong at mill dam. Could not grind much.

Sat. 14 Some warmer
Went and put some boards on dam in A.M. Lidy Beber and children came at noon. Schuyler, Walter & I went to Huntertown in P.M. Took some butter. Got 15 cts



Mathias and his wife, Frances, seated in front.
Others are unidentified.

per lb. Got 2 spools thread, oil lamp chimney, paper, all 82 cts. Got of A. Sterling \$28.75.

Sun. 15 Cold
At home all day. Willie Giles here all night. Schuyler and Walter went with sled to Perry's. Came back in P.M. Read papers, cracked walnuts. Wrote some.

Mon. 16 Clear, cold
Took sawdust to dam to make it tight. Got back at noon. Brought load of fodder from the field and took more sawdust in P.M. Brought some wood home. Henry Boger here. Gave him 2 dollars for his father to get coal at Ft. Wayne. Duntion here to look at sheep.

Tues. 17 Clear
David brought the coal I sent Boger for. Fixed some chains for David. He paid me 20 cts for fixing them. Lam Bricker here to buy sheep. Did not sell to him.

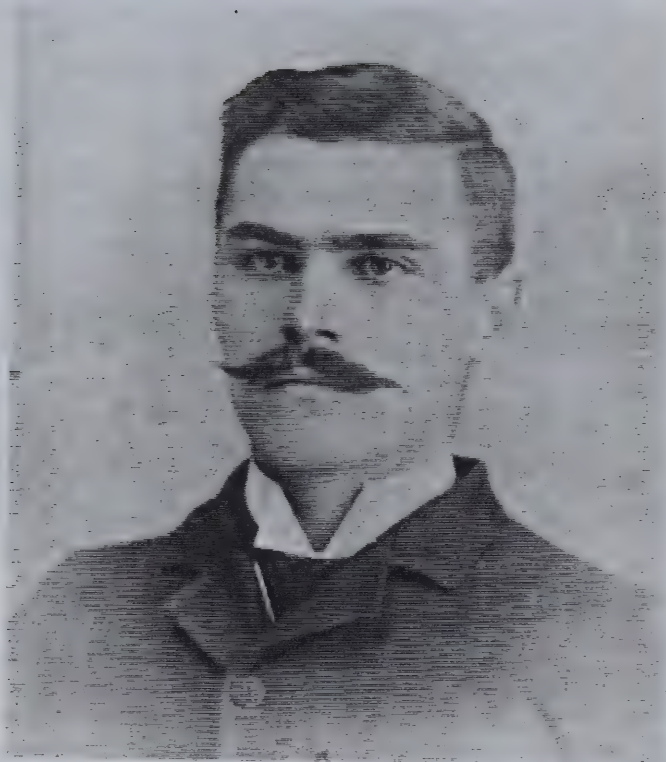
Wed. 18 Clear
Duntion, Holbrook and Perry here to see sheep. Did not sell them. David Gump and family here, had grist. Could not grind, so took it to other mill. They went to Rinholts. Went to schoolhouse in evening. Taught book-keeping.

Thurs. 19 Clear
Fred Smith came after his grist. Was not done. He took it to the other mill. Schuyler went to Huntertown. Got some oysters & crackers. Amount to \$1.29. I owe him 9 cts yet. Parker here. Bought or bargained for sheep. Rec'd \$5 dollars.

Fri. 20 Clear, cold
Went to dam. Drawed some fodder. Got some wood. Henry Runttoy here to get grist ground. Could not grind. Went to mill and to Gumps.

Sat. 21 Clear, cold
Went to dam. Fixed it some. Jim Malcome here. Got \$1.75 worth of lumber of Amos'. Rode to Huntertown with him. Sugar, coffee, cough drops 82 cts. Surface, A. Kell, George V., Hatch B. here to get some money for M.E. Church parsonage.

See Mathias' Journals - Pg 6



Schuyler Fitch, Mathias Fitch's first son, born in 1869 and married to Leah Pepple in 1893. Descendant families include: Fitch, Hartnett, Coen, Lyon, Smith and Blackburn.



John Bryon Fitch, Mathias Fitch's second son, born in 1872 and married to Rosa Hollopeter in 1898. Descendant families include: Fitch, Caple, Colvin, Lawson, Holcomb, Culbertson, Fulk, Jones, Lortie, Wies, Lockwood, Romans, Ober, Sanchez, Furlough, Wortman and Whitehead.

- Mathias' Journals from Page 5 -

Sun. 22 Clear, warmer
At home. Read papers. Dan Pepple here. Bessie went to Grandma's to get papers. Did not get any. Nate Beber here to get wedge. Paid 10 cts. He got chop feed.

Mon. 23 Clear
Took wheelbarrow. Went to dam & fixed it. Schuyler drew wood & fodder. Fixed transom. Worked in house. Henry Boger here to get man to help saw wood. Gave wife \$1.50 to pay to John for overshoes.

Tues. 24 Clear
Schuyler went to help Boger saw wood. I tended stock. Read some. Was in house most of day.

Wed. 25 Stormy, snow
Schuyler went to help Boger. I tended stock. Worked in shop. Commenced to make crowbar. Schuyler got done at noon. John and I went to schoolhouse in evening to writing and bookkeeping. Willie Fitch came home with us. Got some honey for baby.

Thurs. 26 Clear
Worked in shop a while. Went with Saylor Preston and Parker fox hunting in A.M. Schuyler & I went to Huntertown in P.M. Sent to *Youth's Companion* \$1.75. For boots for myself \$2.50, for stove pipe and sundries \$1.32. Mrs. Marshall rode home with us.

Fri. 27 Clear, warmer
Took gun, went across creek to see about foxes. A man here with grist. Wm. Burl here to get beech log. He went to Bally. Schuyler, Walter & I went down creek

where there was mad dog. Schuyler shot it. We hunted for rabbits a while & came home.

Sat. 28 Clear
Took sheep to Huntertown. Schuyler & Walter went along. Got \$112.30. Coffee 26 cts. Paid Walter \$14.75, settled with him. Paid John \$5.95. George Wolford rode to town with us. The sheep weighted 2850 lbs. Buck weighed 175 lbs.

Sun. 29 Cloudy, thawed
Went down to mother's. Hartzell & wife, Ida Fitch, Warren Hartzell & Mrs. Andrew there. Amos Fitch & family. Hartzell came. Got home. Thomas Vandolah and Emma Gump came in sled. Stayed all day.

Mon. 30 Clear, thawed
Worked in shop & fixed crowbar. John Bally here to get rope and pulley. Got pulley. Sent sledge home. Went to dam & fixed it some. Horton and Timmons there getting ice. Schuyler drew fodder & cleaned sheep stables. Hondin & son drew logs for West. David Fitch drew logs. John & Walter went to school.

Tues. 31 Cloudy, not cold
Went with Schuyler & took some stone to the dam. Put on some boards. Some fishermen came & went fishing. Gus Pick came. Schuyler and him went hunting. They hacked and dug out a skunk. Gus stayed all night. John was at Huntertown & and got papers and letter for Bessie.

- Mathias' Journals from Page 6 -
January, 1905

Thurs. 26 Cloudy
 Worked in shop, making ice tongs. Got them done by noon. Helped cut ice at dame in P.M. Wornen helped John and Parker Fitch draw ice. Worman arranged to go to town tomorrow. Gave him \$1.00 to get two sieves. Althea went with some of the members of her club to Lena West's wedding.

Fri. 27 Clear
 Around home. Looked after stock for Worman. He had gone to Ft. Wayne with load of wood. Fred Kell came in A.M. to see me about buying some land and buying my horse at Kills. He went home before noon. The girls went to debate at St. Johns at night. Went with Harvey's and Amos'.

Sat. 28 Clear
 Took crescent saw to where Surface boys were cutting wood. Went to Freese mill from there. Saw Freese. Went up the race & came home. Stopped at mother's on the way home & gave her five dollars. Looked after chores for Worman. He had gone to town with wood. The girls went to John Fitch's in evening.

June, 1888

Wed. 13 Rained some
 The boys got done replanting corn & hoed some potatoes. I made beehive, changed some bees into them. Amos here after lumber.

Thurs. 14 Cloudy
 The boys fixed race. I worked at hives. Peddler here. Got socks & tablecloth \$2.25. Machine agent here. Went to Huntertown in evening & got of Fred Preston crate of honey boxes \$2.80, letter & lemons 20 cts. John Griffin here with grist. David paid the money he borrowed \$10.

Fri. 15 Clear
 The boys plowed potato garden. John & I went down home & got plow. _____ calf we brought it home. Candidate here. Ed Drake and Ed Parker. Got Perry

Fitch's shingles sawed.

Sat. 16 Clear
 Sawed some. Worked with bees. Went to Mike Kisler's in P.M. Looked at his bees & stopped at Sam Surfaces. Went to Huntertown in evening. John went along. Attended Selective Meeting. Got bananas 10 cts. Got home about midnight. The shingles on one house of Esther's amount to \$3.32.

Sun. 17 Clear
 Read papers. Lulu Surface, Willie Fitch & other boys here. Schuyler took horse and buggy. Bessie, Althea & I went to Cedar Church in evening to Children's Day. Got home about 11 o'clock. To collection 25 cts.

Mon. 18 Cloudy
 Schuyler plowed potatoes. John hoed cane. Walter choring. I went to dam & worked at bee hives. Changed one swarm of bees. Curtis West here. Got sawdust & fixed leaks.

Tues. 19 Clear
 Worked at beehives and at dam. Wheeled some gravel to make tight. Schuyler, John and Walter worked at hoeing cane and potatoes. Went to commencement at Cedar Church in evening. Bessie went along.

Wed. 20 Clear
 Sawed some hives & worked with bees. Had swarm of bees. Sil Simon here, paid interest on his note, amount \$16. Went to Huntertown in the evening. Stayed at meeting. For matches 10 cts.

Thurs. 21 Clear
 Went to Ft. Wayne & got check \$13.20. For suit & overalls & suspenders \$9.10, bedspreads gingham \$3.71. For fixtures \$1.35. Railroad & dinner \$1.58. Bananas & lemons 20 cts, soda 10 cts. Walter went along to town. Sold bees wax for \$3.60. R. Cone here in morning, got some lumber, amount \$1.00. Did not pay for it.

Fri. 22 Clear
 Worked making some bee fixtures. The boys worked in corn and potatoes. I went to Huntertown in P.M. & attended caucus. Rode home with David Fitch. Paid Gus Pick for shearing sheep & sold him shears. Owed him 90 cts.

See Mathias' Journals - Pg 8



(Left) Huntertown Methodist Episcopal Church in 1910

- Mathias' Journals from Page 7 -

Sat. 23 Cloudy
Worked at sawing some. In evening Schuyler went to picnic at Cedar Church.

Sun. 24 Clear

At home all day. Wife and some of the children went to Bogers. Bessie and Schuyler to Sunday School & Church. Quite a number of boys here.

Mon. 25	Rain
Cleaned shop. Fixed and sorted iron. Fixed workbench. Sawed some and commenced to fix in barn. Pepple here to get wire stretcher. Did not get. A Thrush here to get log wagon. Got it & drew some logs. J. J. Rundle here to get load of wood 35 cts.	

Tues. 26 Clear
The boys worked in barn. Sawed some plank for Gump. Boger here, got load of wood. Harvey Fitch got some lumber. Boggs here to buy sheep. Houston brought hoes home & got brace & bits - brought them home in evening.

Wed. 27 Cloudy
Schuyler & I sawed one of Thrush's logs. John & Walter plowed corn. Schuyler worked at potatoes in P.M. Worked in barn some. Sawed another log for Thrush after supper.

Thur. 28 Rain
Schuyler & I sawed pickets for Thrush. Built car track & sawed logs. John hunted for cows. Dan Pepple here. Harv Saylo here, got hay rack, stuff of Amos'.

Fri. 29 Clear
Sawed lumber. Schyuler & John helped. Fixed cant hook. Thrush came in the evening. Got some of his pickets. His man was with him.

Sat. 30 Clear
Sawed lumber. Thrush got lumber & pickets he had left. Houston & sons here to grind mower knife. Quit sawing in middle of afternoon. Schuyler & I went to Gap well. Jacob Miller came home with me to supper. John & I went to Huntertown in the evening. Got home at 12 o'clock. Spent for sugar 50 cts.

July, 1888

Sun. 1 Clear
Willie Fitch came home with Schuyler. I read papers. Bessie and Attie went to David Fitch's. Nan, Gladys and Roland (Fitch) here in P.M. Two of Perry's boys here for dinner.

Mon. 2 Clear
The boys plowed and worked at potatoes. I sawed
one log.

Tues. 3 Clear
Worked in mill some. The boys worked at corn and potatoes. I went down home in the evening. Mother came home from Perry's.

Wed. 4 Cloudy
Went to Perry Fitch's to see him about cutting wheat. He brought canvas and came along down with me.

Ripped slats. Fixed canvas. John went to Huntertown.
Took mother. Schuyler took horse to Perry's to bring
machine down tomorrow.

Thur. 5 Clear
They brought machine. Got it set up & commenced to cut some in the afternoon. Had a swarm of bees.

Fri. 6 Clear
The boys worked at cutting wheat. Broke sickle knife. Fixed it for William Fitch. Had swarm of bees.

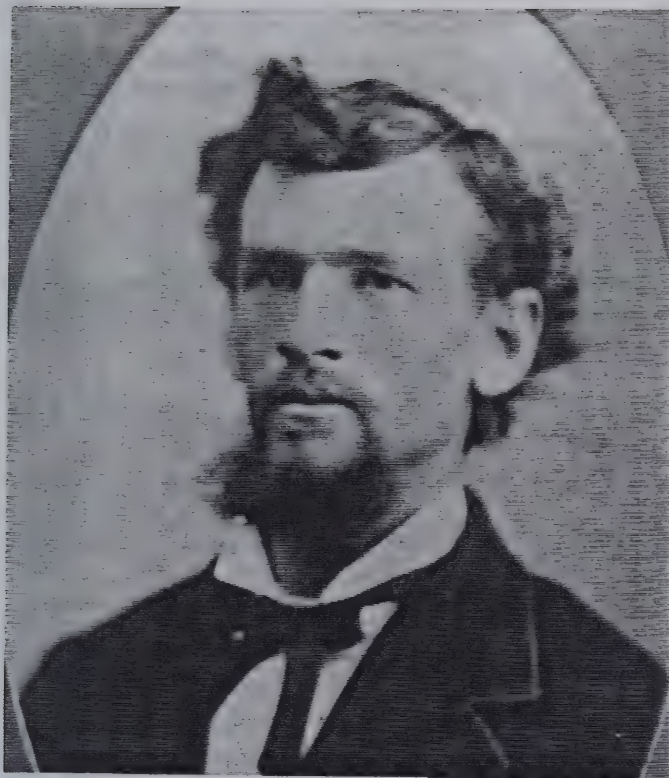
Sat. 7 Clear A.M. Rain
Went to Laotto & from there to Kendleville.
Bought bee fixtures \$3.50. Got back to Laotto at noon.
Looked around there. Got home at supper time. Went to
Huntertown after supper. Got at depot honey boxes sent
from Kendleville. John went with me. Stayed to meeting
of regulators.

Sun. 8 Clear
Read papers. Took walk with girls. Saw Perry Gump and Mrs. Honek. Some small boys here swimming. Curtis West here to see about getting wheat. Had one swarm of bees.

Mon. 9 Rain
Commenced to rain early in the morning. Rained most of day. Went to mother's & got receipts for money. Allen Fitch paid her. Stopped at mill on the way home to
See Mathias' Journals - Pg 9



Perry Fitch, Nathaniel Fitch's first son, born in 1842 and married to Sarah Gloyd in 1864. Descendants include: Fitch, Pendleton, Lawrence, Glowaty, Gay, Akers, McCarthy, Eucker, Hula, Walberry, Patton, Rucker, Horton, Colby, Griest, Wyatt, More, Smith, Gladbach and Ewing.



Amos Fitch, Nathaniel Fitch's fourth son, born in 1849 and married to Nancy Hunter in 1878. Descendants include Fitch, Houser, Kirbach, Dove, Wagner, Noll and Wert.

- Mathias' Journals from Page 8 -

see Curtis West. Worked in shop. David Fitch here.
Tues. 10 Clear

Houston here to get rakes. Bought 6 bushels corn of him at 50 cts. per bushel. Curtis West here. Sold him all the wheat. Took load down. 1055 lbs. Willie cut wheat. The boys shocked. Worked in shop & with boys. Wrote some letters. John took them to Huntertown after supper. Got rake 25 cts., letters 4 cts.

July, 1905 - Fitch Reunion

Mon. 3 Cloudy, rained
Worked in cellar while it rained. Wrote letter & sent \$47.56 to Mrs. Drake, less sending 18 cts. I went to train in evening. Allen Fitch and wife (Emma Fitch) from South St. Paul came on train. Stopped at mother's. I stayed a while & came home.

Tues. 4 Cloudy
I went to mother's. Wife and the girls came afterwards. Had reunion of the Fitch relations. Nearly all of Perry Fitch, wife, sons and daughters there. Amos Fitch family. My sons and families. Fred & Bessie (Fitch) Kell & family. Harvey Fitch and family. Mason & wife (Ida Fitch). Hartzell and wife (Emma Fitch). Gloyds and family. Strattons. Mr. Parker. David Fitch & family.

July, 1910 - Fitch Reunion

Mon. 4

Clear

The girls, Althea, Allie and Mrs. Saw went in rig to Harvey Fitch's to Fitch Reunion. Walked there until 4 o'clock. Saw most of the folks. Hartzell and wife. Gloyd and family. Mason, Amos, two daughters and son David Fitch and all except one boy. Bertha Beers (Colorado). David Young from Ohio, J. B. Fitch and family & others. Ida Mason sent report from Europe. Allen Fitch sent report of Fitch Fund. He had made \$42 and some cents out of the \$15. I paid 10 cts. and 20 cts. for expenses.



Frances Vandolah Fitch, wife of Mathias Fitch



Fitelia Fitch (one of the twin daughters of Nathaniel Fitch) born in 1851 and married to Jerome Gloyd in 1875. This is the only known photo of Fitelia as a young woman. Descendants include Gloyd, Pusey, Moyer, Emehiser, Liggett, Brown, Walker, Hoot, Moudy, Stoller, McDaniel, Leach, Vanderloop, Hardwick and Cumberland.

On Education:

Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic

Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch wanted their children to be educated beyond what was usual for farm children in rural Indiana in the latter half of the 19th century. To this end, in 1856 Nathaniel and some neighbors (Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd, Mr. Hilegart) founded the Perry Center Seminary, where a college-educated teacher taught reading, writing, arithmetic, oration and Latin or Greek to the older children.

A non-graded district school provided education for the younger Fitches. Why some ended their formal educations when they were just 10 years old is not known. The twins, Fitelia and Francelia, left school in 1861 at that age.

In 1866, Nathaniel sent his oldest daughter, Jennie, off to Hillsdale College in Michigan. His purpose in doing so was to have a "permanent" teacher for his family and the community after she graduated. Jennie taught only one summer at the white schoolhouse across the creek near the Fitch Homestead before she left to pursue a career and, possibly, a husband who was not a farmer, in Fort Wayne, Utica (NY) and Wabash.

Perhaps his 10th child, Sarah Elizabeth, provides some insight into this question.

"Jennie was the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know *running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.* (Italics mine) I'm not blaming her (Jennie). It was Father that spoiled her."

Nathaniel's youngest child, David, attended school in Fort Wayne in the late 1870' or early 1880's, so it is probable that he attended a graded school, which were more common in the "cities" than the country.

Sometime after 1887, when he married Emma Belle Stirlin, David went to veterinarian school in Chicago. His granddaughter, Mary Belle Brogren, writes, "I really think that it was quite unusual to be a married student in those days."

David's daughter, Helen Fitch Hawver, always said that Nathaniel felt that education was very important; and, thus, David and Emma Belle stressed the importance of education to their children, Hurschel, Burgess and Helen.

Hurschel and Burgess both graduated from Purdue University, with Hurschel becoming an engineer in Auburn and Burgess becoming a college agricultural teacher and eventually head of the dairy department at the University of Minnesota.

Helen was a graduate of Western College for Women, doing her graduate work at Columbia and teaching high school.



David Nathaniel Fitch, Nathaniel's 15th (and Sarah's last) child, born in 1865 and married to Emma Belle Stirlin in 1887. Descendants include: Fitch, Wuepper, Dick, Davis, Birdsall, Mann, Shaffer, Vegeler, Silha, Reimann, Hoza, Brogren, Schofield, Florsheim, Richardson and Le Vay.

One of Jennie Fitch Beers' sons and all three of her daughters earned college degrees just after the turn of the 20th century. While it does not appear that Jennie's other son, Kenneth, went to college, he was, nevertheless, well-educated and worked as a journalist most of his life.

Roy Beers, Jennie's second son, had a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Rochester, and he used his engineering know-how in figuring out how best for some farmer, township or estate owner to bring water from its source to their houses. His business slogan was:

"When you want water, call for Beers".

His father, Levi Beers, was a Methodist minister and militant agitator against the open saloon and the evils of strong drink, including beer. Jennie Fitch Beers was president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, in 1890. It's said that the liquor men (those who sold it or profited from it) had many a laugh over the Beers' name.

All three of Jennie's daughters were teachers. Her youngest, Alice Beers Kephart, was a frontier teacher in Colorado. On one occasion, she was hired to teach in a one room schoolhouse where previous teachers had been run off by the students. When she arrived, she carried her long buggy whip into the room and leaned it against the blackboard. The threat of that sort of discipline was enough, and the students accepted her as their teacher.

Speaking of discipline, I am reminded that I also asked about "child discipline" stories in the special summer Newsletter to our "elders". I was curious to see if Nathaniel and Sarah's non-violent approach to child discipline had come down through the generations. Regrettably, I have only two stories on the subject.

Once, when Kenneth and Roy Beers went swimming instead of helping their mother with the laundry, as they had been instructed, their father took them to the basement kitchen, gave them a brief lecture on disobedience and then took down the buggy whip.

"Just as Father was about to apply the lash, a shadow passed the kitchen window. We saw it out of the corner of our eyes, as did Father. In through the door swept Grandmother Fitch (Nathaniel's wife). 'Levi, don't you dare touch those boys with that whip. I raised fifteen children of my own, and I never whipped one of them. Don't you ever dare horsewhip a grandson of mine.' We never heard our father's reply for the simple reason that we were in full retreat elsewhere. The buggy whip was never seen again."

Kenneth also tells of disobeying his parents' instructions to stay within the camp meeting grounds one summer Sunday. He strayed outside with some older boys.

"My father trailed us to the Clarion River. He took me into one of nature's chapels and on his knees prayed that I might not be led to disobey again. The boys were certain that the punishment I received was a whipping."

Babysitting - The Old Fashioned Way

by Kenneth Beers

Two lots beyond the parsonage lived a boy about my own age with whom I often played. His mother left him in charge of his baby sister. "See that she doesn't get off the walk. She will be all right there."

Harvey and I had some railroading to do that afternoon. Specifically, we were building a tunnel in the back yard. This naturally took us underground for at least part of the time.

It would be difficult to watch the baby sister; so, as an engineering feat, I suggested that we nail her fast to the board sidewalk, which we did, by her skirts.

Harvey's mother returned while we were in our tunnel. Horrified to find her adorable baby in anything but an adorable condition, she hastened to pick her up. The nails held, just as we planned they would. It was hard on her clothes, of course.

"Whose idea was this, nailing the baby to the walk?" Truth and honesty were again being put to a severe test, but I managed to assure Harvey's mother that it was my idea. "I thought so. Now, Kenneth Beers, you get home as quickly as you can," and I got.

Recollections:

LeRoy Fitch Beers

by Ellen Beers Adams

When I was a youngster, about 4 to 6 years old, my father, Roy Beers, sat down with me and gave me an unforgettable lesson. All I remember is that he had some object (it might have been a penny or some other coin, or it could have been an apple), which he placed between us.

Then he pulled it over close to himself and said one word: "Mine." Next he pushed it over close to me and said, "Thine." (I knew what "thine" meant because I was accustomed to his reading from the Bible every morning after breakfast.)

My best guess is that he did this 3 or 4 times. It certainly had impact; I got the message loud and clear.

Recollections:

David Nathaniel Fitch

by Helen Fitch Silha

I remember my granddad, David Nathaniel Fitch. He visited us in Manhattan, Kansas, where my father, James Burgess Fitch, was the head of the Dairy Department at what was then Kansas State Agricultural College. My brother Bill, Granddad Fitch and my dad went hunting ducks with Dad's cousin, Jim Fair, in Alden, Kansas. Bill has some pictures of them, holding many ducks.

I have memories of Ed Fair, Jim Fair and Aunt "Frank" (Francelia). I met Sarah Fair at that time, probably in the early 30's."

It's a Small World!

On June 24, 1995, Jennie Fitch Beers and Sarah Fitch Stratton's families "met" in an Iowa wedding, when Celeste Sleeper, who is somehow related to Sarah Fair Sleeper's husband Alan (the Stratton side), married Randy Spangler, who is Jennie's great, great grandson.



Celeste Sleeper Spangler and her groom, Randy Spangler, as a modern-day "Gothic American" couple. A table fork substitutes for the pitchfork in Grant Wood's original painting.

Food and the Fitches

As anyone who has attended a Fitch Family Reunion luncheon can attest, our kin certainly know how to cook. In the Special Newsletter sent out this past summer to older relatives, we asked if there were any early Fitch recipes available, and we were pleasantly surprised by the response.

On the next two pages are printed a dozen early family recipes. While the exact origins of these recipes are unknown, we do know that these foods were prepared by Fitch women who were born in the 19th century. Given that most women learned their domestic skills from their mothers, it is likely that some of these recipes predate our sources. Many of their recipes and suggestions or comments (which we have reprinted in quotation after the recipes) exist in their own handwriting.

Some of these recipes are for foods that are no longer common: Spoon bread, cooked mayonnaise, fritters.

Others have their modern equivalents, but their ingredients, measurements or instructions may be somewhat dated.

Two recipes (Beef Loaf and Christmas Pudding) that use large quantities of suet (the hard, crumbly beef or sheep fat deposited around the kidneys and loins) are out-of-step with modern healthy diets, except in small quantities.

Each recipe has been attributed to its earliest known source, and the dates of that person's life are given to the right of their name.

There are two known "Fitch" foods, mentioned in early documents, for which we have no recipes: Salt-rising bread and pickled beets. Does anyone have those recipes, or any other old ones, for that matter?

The recipes are printed in a format that, when copied, can be folded or cut up and should fit into modern recipe boxes. If anyone is courageous enough to try some of these recipes, I'd love to hear about it and, ideally, get a photo of the results and/or the cook.

As the pumpkin custard pie is a tradition in our house on Thanksgiving Day, I can give you my personal assurance that it is well worth the effort.



Clara Beers, whose recipe for chocolate cake follows, sits in an early soda fountain with her bonnet hanging down her back.

On Food:

Notes from our kin

by Ellen Beers Adams, granddaughter of Jennie Fitch Beers

My mother, Clara Darrohn Beers, was the most industrious homemaker! All through the 1930's, I would come home from school on autumn days to find the house filled with the aromas of pickle-making. Mother always kept a fine stock of her own pickles, jellies and jams in the basement. Her watermelon pickles were a favorite of many guests.

She would send me down to bring some up whenever we were having company - - this was often, as my parents loved to entertain and to show off their "showplace" gardens, etc., to which they devoted a great deal of time and effort.

Each fall in the late 20's and early 30's, Mother would buy dozens and dozens of eggs, while their prices were low, to be put into a large crock in the basement. The crock contained a keeping agent called "water glass" (sodium silicate solution).

These eggs were used all winter, but only in baking or other types of cooking. They were not suitable to be used as fresh eggs.

How many times did my mother send me down there with a bowl and a long-handled, slotted spoon to bring up eggs for her baking! It was always a bit revolting to handle that thick "goosey" material - - even with a spoon!

Love of ice cream seems to be in our Fitch genes! My father (Roy Beers) really loved ice cream. In the days before freezers were a common addition to refrigerators (let alone a household necessity), on many a Sunday Dad would stop to pick up a quart of ice cream on the way home from church. At home, it was wrapped in a blanket to stay cold until our Sunday dinner had been eaten.



Margie Beers (L) and Althea Fitch, one of Mathias Fitch's daughters, in Harvey IL in 1900.

'Belle (Mrs. John) Fitch's

1874 - 1953

Crumb Pie

2 c. flour
1 c. white sugar
1 1/2 t. soda
1/2 c. shortening
2 t. cinnamon
1 t. ground cloves

1/2 c. molasses
1/2 c. hot water

Blend first 6 ingredients into crumbs. Press part into pan for crust and save part for the topping. Mix molasses and water and pour into crumb crust. Sprinkle remaining crumbs on top. Bake at 350/375 degrees for about 45 minutes or less.

(Belle was Mathias Fitch's daughter-in-law.)

Jennie Fitch Beers'

1844 - 1925

Spoon Bread

1 c. boiling water
1/2 c. corn meal
1/2 c. milk
1/2 t. salt
1 1/2 t baking powder
1 T. soft butter

2 eggs (well-beaten)

Pour boiling water over corn meal. Beat in the remaining ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole and bake in hot oven (400 degrees) until just set (20-25 minutes). 6 servings.

(Jennie was Nathaniel Fitch's oldest daughter and the wife of Levi Beers, a teacher and Methodist minister.)

Margie Beers Ozanne's

1878 - 1975

Pumpkin Custard Pie

2 c. pumpkin/squash (stewed and sieved or canned)
1 1/2 c. or 2 c. white sugar
4 eggs
1/2 t. cinnamon (heaped)
1/2 t. ginger (scant)
1/2 t. salt (scant)
3 c. milk

Combine filling ingredients in the order given and pour into pasty-lined pans. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes at 375 degrees. Test for doneness by inserting a table knife into the center of a pie. If only a trifle of the filling clings to the knife, the pies are done.

(Margie was one of Jennie Fitch's daughters. "Canned pumpkin is best because it takes a good deal of fuel to cook a pumpkin." This recipe can be prepared as custard without the crust by baking containers in pans of water.)

Clara (Mrs. Roy) Beers'

1888 - 1981

Chocolate Cake

1/2 c. butter
1 c. white sugar
1/2 c. brown sugar
2 eggs
1 c. sour milk (or butter milk)
2 c. flour (sifted)
2 sq. chocolate (melted)
1 t. vanilla
1 t. baking soda
1 1/2 t. salt

Cream butter and sugars. Mix in eggs, then milk, then melted chocolate. Add remaining ingredients and stir until mixed. Bake at 350 degrees until done (top springs back to touch).

(Clara was Jennie Fitch Beers' daughter-in-law. Based on the volume of the ingredients, it appears that this recipe will make a two layer cake. Clara's comment was "keeps moist".)

Jennie Fitch Beers'

1844 - 1925

Nut Candy

Take sugar in proportion of 1 cup sugar to 1/4 cup water. Cut up nuts, about 1/2 cup of nuts to 1 cup of sugar.

Cook sugar, water and nuts until it makes a ball when dropped into cold water.

Set in pan of cold water until candy is cold or nearly so.

Then stir (use wooden spoon or stick) until candy crumbles.

Keep stirring until it softens.

Pack it in a dish.

(This recipe can be made in any quantity by using the proportions given.)

Margie Beers Ozanne's

1878 - 1975

Cooked Mayonnaise

2 eggs (or 1 egg and 1 rounded t. flour)
1 c. vinegar (1/2 or less water if very strong)
1/2 c. sugar
1 t. salt
1 c. whipped cream
2 t. French mustard, if desired

Beat eggs to yellow foam. Add slowly still beating, sugar, salt and mustard. Stir in vinegar gradually and cook in a double boiler until thick enough, stirring constantly. When cold, add whipped cream.

("If cooked too long, it may separate. Use thinned lemon juice instead of vinegar for fruit salad mayonnaise.")

Corn and Minced Ham Fritters

1 1/3 c. flour
 1 1/2 t. baking powder
 1/4 t. salt
 1 egg (slightly beaten)
 1/4 c. milk
 1 c. cooked corn
 1/2 c. minced, cooked ham

Sift dry ingredients. Add egg combined with milk, corn and ham. Beat until batter is free from lumps. Melt and heat enough fat to cover the bottom of a large heavy frying pan. Drop in the mixture by the tablespoonful. Fry until brown on one side, then turn over and brown the other side.

Margie Beers Ozanne's

1878 - 1975

Corn Fritters

3 ears of sweet corn (boiled or raw) - about a cup of corn
 1 c. milk
 1 egg
 Flour enough to make a batter
 A little salt
 1 t. baking powder

Fry them like the fritters in the above recipe.

Margie Beers Ozanne's

1878 - 1975

Christmas Pudding

2 c. sweet milk
 2 c. suet (ground)
 1 t. salt (heaping)
 1 c. raisins
 1 c. currants
 40 prunes
 1/4 lb. citron
 Nutmeg (a little)
 2 t. baking powder
 3 1/2 c. flour

Sift together dry ingredients. Wash and dry fruit and sprinkle with part of the flour, putting prunes in whole. Mix fruit into dry ingredients. Mix together milk, suet and eggs. Blend in the dry ingredients and fruit. Pour into 3 large baking powder cans (greased and floured). Cans should not be more than 2/3 full. Steam for 3 hours. Serve with a sweet sauce.

("Cans should have lids on with holes to let out steam. Waxed paper tied on with holes punched in it will do, if there are no lids. I set the cans in a deep kettle with water with a match stick or old spoon under while boiling. I put a lid on the kettle. The water should simmer, not boil fast, as the pudding should have time to rise while cooking.")

Margie Beers Ozanne's

1878 - 1975

Beef Loaf

5 rounded cups of finely ground round steak
 1 c. chopped suet
 1 1/2 c. fine bread crumbs
 2 c. milk
 Salt & pepper to taste

Mix ingredients thoroughly with hands. A little sage or parsley can be added. Mould into an oblong loaf and drop into a well-greased spider. Be sure surface is smooth and free from cracks. Cover with a dust of flour and good-sized pieces of butter. Put on grate in hot oven until seared over and slightly brown. Then change to lower part of oven and bake only 1 hour altogether.

(The "spider" referred to is an iron frying pan, originally one with attached legs for use over an open fire. It appears that the pan should initially be put under the broiler of a modern oven and then baked in the oven, perhaps at 375 degrees. This recipe may have been Jennie Fitch Beers, given its reference to a spider.)

Alice Beers Kephart's

1884 - 1965

Scotch Orange Marmalade

Slice 1 orange, 1 lemon and 1 grapefruit fine, rejecting cores, seeds and all membranes but keeping the skins. Measure the pulp and add three times the water. Let stand in earthen dish overnight. Next morning boil for 10 minutes only. Let stand overnight again. Following morning add pint for pint of sugar and boil about 2 hours, until it jellies. Use a wooded spoon and when 2 drops come off the spoon, it is done. Makes 9 glasses.

(Alice was one of Jennie Fitch Beers' daughters. "I made the above, and it was bitter because I just stirred across and did not take out the membranes, and my husband won't eat it. Try half the amount until you learn if your husband likes it. It takes lots of sugar, so it is better to make a small amount first.")

Margie Beers Ozanne's

1878 - 1975

Cherry Cake

1 t. soda dissolved in 1 c. cherries & juice (unsweetened)
 1 egg (well-beaten)
 1 c. sugar
 1 c. flour
 1 c. nuts

Mix in above order. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes in a 9-inch square greased tin. Serve with whipped cream.



The students and teachers of School District 2, Perry Township, Indiana (c. 1910)

Jake Kell is the small boy in front. Carolyn and Elizabeth Kell are also present, as are Grace and Maurice Fitch, John's children.

The school was known as "The Fitch School" due to the number of Fitches who were educated there over the years.

Jake Kell and Mary Louise Fitch, who attended from 1st to 4th grade, are probably the only surviving Fitch students of this school.

The school was closed around 1918-19, when the Eel River-Perry Township school was built. Subsequently, it was demolished.

- Courting Disaster from Page 1 -

jumped to the ground and ran across the creek, the short cut, for he must tell the news.

"There goes our advance agent,' I remarked bitterly. It took us ten minutes to drive to the ford to go across the creek, to open and close the gate at the foot of the lane leading up to my home.

"Why didn't I tell him about my family? Well, I was too proud. If he must see all of us before he asked me to be his wife, well, that was his privilege. How could I tell him how primitively we lived, no running water, no conveniences such as he had been accustomed to in the city? How could I tell him that he might have to share a bed with one of my brothers, sleep in a room with a half dozen other boys who never before had seen a high hat at close range, or spats, or such a high collar? How could I tell him these things and many more? He came to see, he would have to learn the truth for himself and either like it or leave."

We children asked, aghast at the telling of this, our mother's own true love story, "Well, what happened?"

"Everything that you could imagine. The boys made fun of him and aped his manners, fought for the privilege of wearing his hat and made life generally miserable for him.

"No, he couldn't take it, and that weekend was the most miserable I ever spent anywhere in my life. He was cool to me on our journey back to school, and, no, he never proposed. That is how close you children came to having a different father."

"How did you meet father," we asked?

"We taught at the same school, and naturally we became acquainted. My family met and liked your father. He was accustomed to the hard ways of country life and was no stranger to farming."

On December 24, 1873, Levi Beers and Jennie were wed at the Fitch Homestead.

*"Jennie Fitch is my name,
And single be my station.
And happy may the gentleman be,
When he makes the alteration."*

Behind a locket photo of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and the above poem.



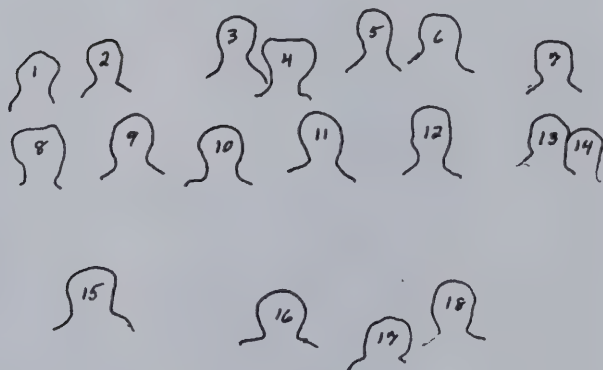
Levi Beers, the teacher who passed the Fitch family inspection and became the "gentleman who made the alteration" by marrying Jennie Fitch.

A Gathering of Perry's and Fitelia's Children

(circa 1907, location unknown)



Identification of Above Photo



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Pearl Fitch (P) | 10 Ethiel Badiac |
| 2 ? | 11 William Fitch (P) |
| 3 Otis Gloyd (F) | 12 Stella Gloyd (F) |
| 4 Della Gloyd (F) | 13 Frank Fitch (P) |
| 5 Kelsey Fitch (P) | 14 ? |
| 6 George Fitch (P) | 15 Victor W. Fitch (P) |
| 7 Homer Bowser | 16 Fred W. Fitch (P) |
| 8 Norma Gloyd Moudy (F) | 17 ? |
| 9 Claude Fitch (P) | 18 ? |
- (P) = Perry Descendant; (F) = Fitelia Descendant

Does anyone know why Homer Bowser and Ethel Badiac are in this photo? Can anyone identify the ?'s above? Probably in Perry's or Fitelia's families.

More Fitches Identified in Photos

Thanks to Elaine Houser Kirbach, Linwood Fitch and Mary Bowlby Baird, we have identified more faces in the photos on this and the following two pages.

Mary noted that she was wearing the same dress and eyeglasses (and had the same frown) in the large "barn" photo as in the children's photo. A closer look at the other children in both photos confirmed that the children's photo was also taken at the 1932 Reunion

This Page: **1907 Gathering of Perry & Fitelia's Families**

14 - Hillis Fitch (P) 15 - Forrest Fitch (P)

Page 17: (Top) **Date Unknown - Fitch Reunion**

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 - Forrest Fitch | 6 - Viola (Mrs Forrest) Fitch |
| 2 - Kenneth F. Harvey | 7 - John Fitch |
| 3 - Victor Fitch | 8 - Nina Fitch |
| 4 - Bert Fitch | 9 - Effie Fitch |
| 5 - Lucinda Fitch | 10 - Ruth Shafer |

Page 17: (Bottom) **1932 Fitch Reunion Children**

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Betty Fitch | 7 - Robert S. Nobles |
| 2 - Sharon Davis | 8 - Joan Houser |
| 3 - Lucinda Fitch | 9 - Enid Davis |
| 4 - Suzanne Fitch | 10 - Helen H. Hawver |
| 5 - Joan Gladbach | 11 - Mary Belle Hawver |
| 6 - Mary S. Bowlby | 12 - Elaine Houser |

Old Reunion Photos (Revisited)

(The photos on this, the preceding and the following pages appeared in the last newsletter. They are reprinted here with expanded identifications of our Fitch kin.)

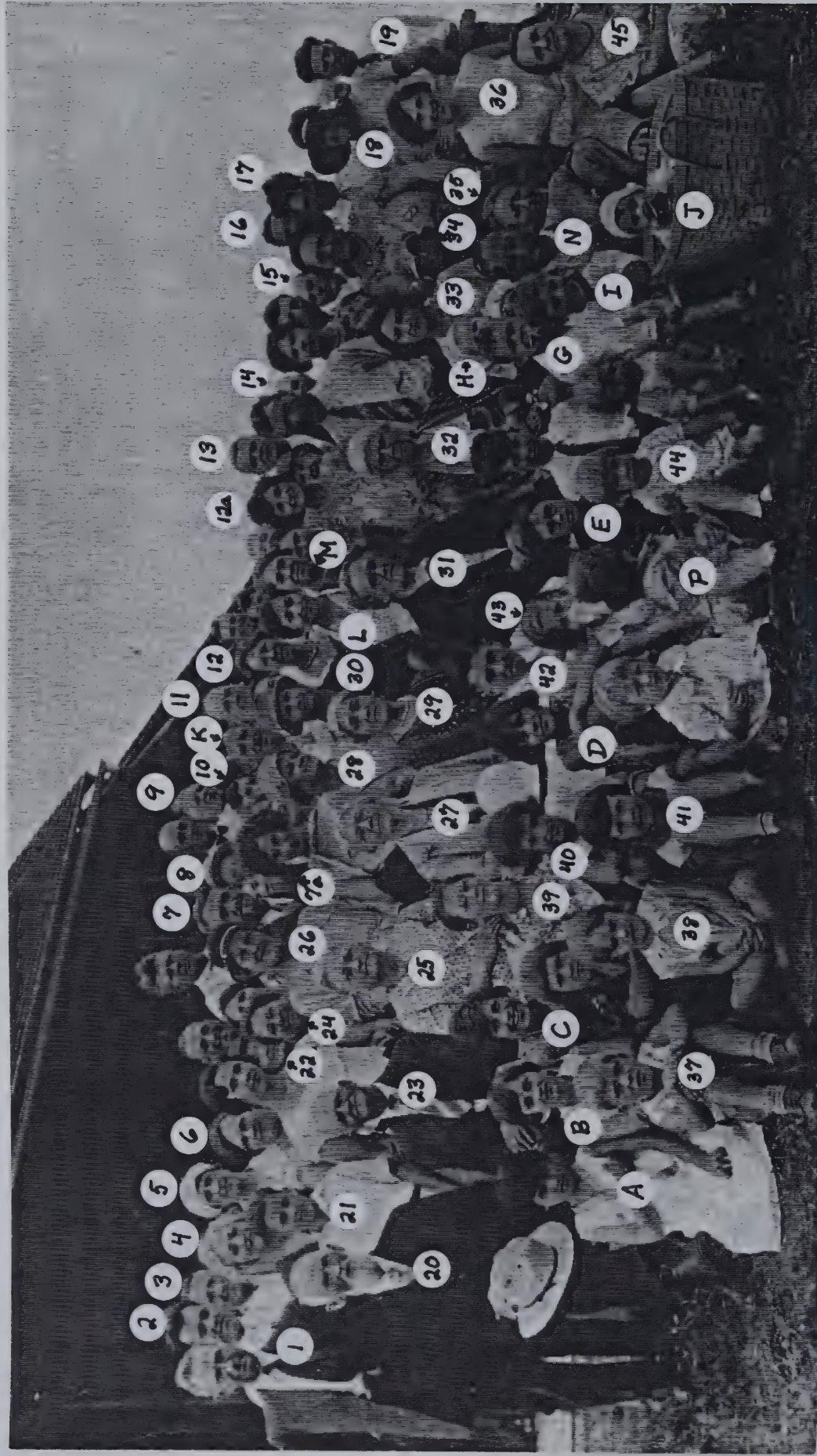


See page 16 for identification chart. We have a number of group photos of this reunion, none of which have any identification on them. Can anyone guess the date? Amos, Harvey, Ida, Fitelia and Francelia attended, so it has to be prior to 1935, when Fitelia died. If anyone would like to see the other photos, write or call Bill Cassell.



Children at the 1932 Fitch Reunion (see page 16 for identification chart)

1932 Fitch Reunion at Amos Pitch's Home in DeKalb County, Indiana (Revisited)



- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 David Fitch | 21 Richard Houser | 32 Ida Alice F. Mason | 43 Joan Houser | J Jane Hawver (baby) |
| 2 Ivan Fitch | 22 Bess F. Kell | 33 Erma F. More | 44 Sharon Davis * | K Claude Bowlby |
| 3 Harry Wert | 23 Harvey Fitch | 34 Helen F. Hawver | 45 Arvilla (Mrs. Otis) Gloyd | L Helen S. Bowlby |
| 4 Nancy (Mrs. Ivan) Fitch | 24 Audrey Hursh | 35 Stella Gloyd | A Suzanne Fitch | M Marguerette S. Nobles |
| 5 Margaret (Mrs. Rolland) Fitch | 25 Etta (Mrs. Harvey) Fitch | 36 Verma F. Smith | B Joan Gladbach | N Harold Stratton |
| 6 Iolene Gloyd | 26 Belle Fitch | 37 David Davis | C Lucinda Fitch | P Helen H. Hawver |
| 7 Ollie Fitch | 27 Emma F. Hartzell | 38 Enid Davis | D Betty Fitch | |
| 7a Marie F. Houser | 28 Nina F. Emrick | 39 Phyllis McComb | E Mary S. Bowlby | * = Correction |
| 8 Arthur Houser | 29 Sarah F. Stratton | 40 Elaine Houser | G Robert S. Nobles | Note: Photo was not taken by |
| 9 Bert Centennial Fitch | 30 Cecil F. McComb | 41 Mary Belle Hawver | H Linwood Fitch (baby) | Kenneth Beers, since he is in |
| 10 Marguerette F. Wert | 31 Fitella F. Gloyd | 42 Robert Gloyd | I Bill Fitch | the photo. |

The Fitches and the Military

We know how Nathaniel Fitch thought about military service during the Civil War. He was adamant that none of his sons should enlist, even though many of their peers, including those at the Perry Center Seminary, marched off to war.

When his oldest son was drafted into the Union Army, Nathaniel paid for a substitute to go in his place, which was legal at the time. When the boys would get excited by "the drums of war", he would say, "Take your hoe and get back to the field."

The Fitches supported the Union war effort, as evidenced by the sewing and displaying of a large United States flag by Nathaniel's daughters, but that support excluded sending any Fitches to fight.

A Fitch family World War I service flag has six stars on it, indicating that six Fitches served during that conflict: Fred Gladbach, Hurshel Fitch, Victor Fitch, Fred Fitch, Kenneth Beers and Willis Jensen.

From his autobiography and correspondence, we know that Kenneth Beers, Jennie's oldest son, went overseas to England as a YMCA secretary, which was a sort of military service. He wore a military uniform with a YMCA patch on his sleeve, instead of a military emblem.

In the Special Newsletter sent out this last summer to Fitches born before 1930, I asked for information about Fitch military service.

Betty Fitch Richards wrote, "I met my husband in Scott's Bowling Alley in Fort Wayne. Months later, war was declared, and we became engaged. When his number came up, he had to go into the Army and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, like so many from Indiana.

"There were four girls and one of the mothers who drove to Fort Sill. Quite an experience! Had a couple of flat tires while in the Ozarks. That's when tires were hard to get. We'd stand along the road and act helpless. Always, a nice young man would come along and change the tire for us. That's when people were helpful.

"Finally, we got to Fort Sill. We had a great time. Two of us were married in a double wedding in the Chapel in Fort Sill (on May 15, 1942, when Betty was 19). I guess I was a camp follower, living in Missouri and North Carolina."

Her husband, Forrest Richards, was a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division, which made the big jump over the Rhine River.

Betty also outlined the military service of her father's family (Fred W. Fitch, grandson of Perry Fitch).

Fred W. Fitch was in the Army in World War I and fought in the front trenches. Alice June Fitch, his first child, was born on September 18, 1918, while he was still in France. Alice's husband, Raymond Getty, fought in World War II in the south Pacific with the Army.

Fred's second child, Lucinda Fitch, was a M/Lance Sergeant in the WAACS in World War II.

Betty's two sons also served. Michael Richards was in the Air Force stationed in Turkey, and Randall Richards was in the Army stationed in Germany.

Fred's fourth child, William S. Fitch II, was a Navy corpsman in the south Pacific in World War II and was recalled to active duty for the Korean War. He stayed in the Active Navy Reserve and retired with 42 years of service.

Ruth Ann's (Fred's fifth child) husband, John Sanford, was in the Navy during World War II, and her son, Steve Sanford, served in the Marines for twelve years, having two tours of Vietnam. Her daughter, Linda Sanford, was in the Air Force.

Eugene Click, the husband of Fred's sixth child, Mary Lou, was in the Navy in World War II. Fred's eighth child, Kenneth Fitch, was in the Navy's submarine service in peacetime, and his daughter, Sharon Fitch Haller, was in the Air Force for twelve years, stationed in Spain and serving in Desert Storm.

Fred's tenth child, John E. Fitch, was in the Navy on an aircraft carrier.

(For one family, that's a lot of military service!)

Bryce Ozanne, a grandson of Jennie Fitch Beers, served as a doctor in the European theater in World War II.

Both Douglas and Robert Beers, grandsons of Jennie's, served as pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and subsequently in the Air Force.

The Newsletter editor, Bill Cassell, served as an enlisted man in the Marine Corps Reserve (ultimately a company gunnery sergeant) for eight years, about 100 years after his great grandfather, Levi Beers, served in the Union Army.

If any other Fitches wish to share their military backgrounds or experiences, write to the Newsletter editor.



Jennie Fitch's future husband, Levi Beers (R), joined the Union Army in March, 1865, but a case of measles prevented him from marching to war with his regiment. By the time he recovered, Richmond had fallen, and there was no need to send him after his regiment. He used his \$500 enlistment bonus to pay for his college education at Baldwin-Wallace College.

Our Thanks to Bob Fitch

Last fall Robert E. Fitch, Mathias Fitch's great grandson, sent me a selection of Mathias' journals and a number of old photos for copying. Some of the photos have been reproduced in this newsletter, including those on this page.

(Left) Schuyler Fitch's family on 12-15-1904. (L-R Rear) Schuyler (age 35), Rowene (age 12), Leah (Schuyler's wife age 33, (front) Merlin (age 3) and Robert (age 10). Schuyler was Mathias' oldest child, who moved with his family to Washington State around the turn of the century.



Notes from Fitch Cousins on the Photos in the Last Newsletter:

Betty and Lucinda Fitch (bottom, pg 17) are the daughters of Fred and Bess Fitch. The Lucinda Fitch at the top of that page was that Lucinda Fitch's grandmother.

Linwood Fitch, son of Forrest and Viola Fitch, writes, "Jane Hawver, a descendant of David Fitch, (the baby in the basket in the barn photo) and I went to school together for 11 plus years before I knew that we were cousins. I learned this from my father when I was about to ask her out on a date."

Lin adds, parenthetically, "By the way , my brother Victor, who wrote that one article for you...I didn't

know he could write." (Well, brothers will be brothers.)

Mary Baird, daughter of Helen and Claude Bowlby, writes, "I had never seen that picture of my mother (as a child in the last Newsletter), and when I saw it, I truly gasped because there surely was a picture of my granddaughter, Emma Alice Boast, daughter to Mary Helen Shryer Boast, my first child. Strange for cloning to take so long!"

Elaine Kirbach, daughter of Marie and Arthur Houser, thinks that the middle girl sitting next to Stella Gloyd in the photo on page 17 in the last Newsletter might be Nina Fitch, who was Harvey Fitch's daughter.

The Fitch Homestead: An Update

While it does not appear feasible for a family trust to purchase and manage the Fitch Homestead, there is still a chance that someone in the family could own the house and some of the land again. More as it develops.

Family Representatives Needed

The task of keeping track of 900 plus Fitch descendants is considerable, and it would be wonderful if we could get someone from each of Nathaniel's children's families (e.g. Perry, Mathias) to take over that responsibility and subsequently share that information with the Family Historian and Newsletter Editor. Please, help.

If you have family stories, photos, memorabilia, etc. and would like to share them with your near and distant cousins, write or call me. Also, please keep me informed of new addresses, births, marriages, divorces and deaths.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173
617-862-6172



Belle and John Fitch, who was Mathias' second son. (See page 6 for an earlier photo of John. Date of this photo is unknown

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 1997



Helen Chloe Fitch, daughter of David N. Fitch, at about age 14. As a child in the 1920's, her nephew, Stephen D. Fitch, thought that Helen was really special...a very progressive (liberated) type who wore men's tall lace-up boots, which he coveted. (c. 1906)

Lost "Beets Pickles" Recipe

Thanks to Alice Deck, who got it from Carolyn Davis at the '94 Reunion, we can pass along the recipe for the Fitch beet pickles (see page 13 of Fall '93 Newsletter.)

"Strain and measure the juice from any size can of sliced beets. Add an equal amount of sugar and half the amount of vinegar to the juice and boil with a teaspoon of whole allspice. Pour over beets and let stand."

In This Issue:

1880's Map of Fitch Family Property
Recollections of Allen & Charles Oakley Fitch
Obituaries and Anniversary Photo of Sarah E. Fitch
Photos of Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch Heirlooms
Another "Guess Who" Photograph
A Quick Genealogical Reference Chart
The Upcoming 1999 Fitch Family Reunion

Fitelia Fitch Descendant

Eel River Cemetery

More than a century ago, area families sought solace as they buried their relatives in a small cemetery along one of northwest Allen Counties busiest roads.

Solace my have been found in the knowledge that their loved ones were gone but wouldn't be forgotten as long as the road connecting Heller's Corners and the Blue and Gray Highway (now U.S. 33) was well travelled.

As times changed and bridges were built over the Eel River, the once-busy road became a back road. The community of Heller's Corners all but disappeared, leaving only a few houses, a small pond and the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church.

See Cemetery - Page 17



Robert Fitch, grandson of Mathias Fitch, at about age 4, wearing "fancy duds" for this formal photo setting, probably in Fort Wayne. (c. 1902)

card

or

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Jim MacInnes	Suzy Enyeart
Alyce Adams	Richard Beers
Alice & Jerry Deck	Susan Bowling
Etta Fitch	Bob and Fran Ozanne
Sr. M. Alma Louise	Norman & Carolyn Moudy
William D. Fitch	Sara Brogren Farren
William S. Fitch	Charlotte Wuepper
Bill Le Vay	Helen F. Silha

Without their generous financial support of the Newsletter, we would be hard pressed to continue its annual publication and distribution to the 400 families descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

How Can You Help?

More financial help wouldn't hurt. I am projecting a deficit of almost \$700 after this newsletter is mailed. You may rest assured that as long as I have Fitch history to share, there will be a Fitch Newsletter, and I will do my best to see that every descendant family gets a copy, even if I have to fund it myself. (It has never really been self-supporting, as my late mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell, always sent a check for what-ever annual shortfall occurred.)

More family photos and stories would also be appreciated. Thanks to Alice Deck and Anne Nobis, I have some "new" old Fitch photos to share. Others sent me clippings and stories. Thank you all! But we need more! The older, the better; but, with so many young kin, family stories and photos from the '30's, '40's and 50's would be great.

And finally, we need to keep our vital records up-to-date. Who's getting married to whom? Who's having children? Who's moving? Who's divorced? Who's passed on? As my old IBM computer finally gave out this summer and I've moved to a Mac-based system, I'll be creating a new data base for the family's vital records this spring. It would be great to have updates from all the branches of the family for this project. The spring of 1994 was the last time that we did a comprehensive update.

For each family member, including those who join the family through marriage or adoption, I need a first name, middle initial and last name, address, and date and place of birth. Dates of marriage or death, if applicable.

My address and phone number are on page 20.

The Next Fitch Family Reunion

Most of those who replied to our question in the last Newsletter about when to hold the next Fitch Reunion thought that 1999 would be best. That would be five years after the last Reunion in 1994. Since many people would have to travel some distance to get to Fort Wayne, it was thought that more frequent reunions might dilute attendance.

Plus, the effort that planning a Reunion requires is significant for the local Fort Wayne Fitch volunteers.

And, who knows? Maybe by then the Fitch

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance - 1/2/96	\$360.46
Contributions from Fitch Descendants	<u>\$610.00</u>

AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$970.46
-----------------	----------

Expenses	
Composition	\$ 36.75
Printing	\$467.25
Envelopes	\$ 32.02
Postage	\$127.80
3rd Class Mailing Permit Renewal	\$ 85.00
Remailing Newsletters***	<u>\$ 84.55</u>
Winter '96 Newsletter Sub-total	\$823.37

Photography Supplies & Printing	\$ 36.76
Copying Vital Records	\$ 15.35
Miscellaneous Postage	<u>\$ 6.72</u>
Other Expenses Sub-total	\$ 58.83

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$882.20
----------------	----------

Ending Balance - 1/2/97	\$ 88.26
-------------------------	----------

Estimated Cost of This Newsletter	\$700.00
Estimated Cost of Updating Vital Records	\$ 75.00

PROJECTED BALANCE - 5/1/97	(\$686.00)
----------------------------	------------

*** IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE

Last year we spent \$84.55 reprinting and remailing newsletters to kin who had moved and had not informed us. Our 3rd class mailing permit allows us to secure the forwarding address, if it is still available, of kin who have moved. We pay \$.50 for each address correction, and the Post Office does not return the newsletter that we originally sent out. In some cases, the forwarding address has expired, and I have to make a phone call to a related family member to get the new address.

All of this costs money and takes time, neither of which is abundant right now. (At 54, I'm in graduate school studying to become an elementary school teacher.) It would be greatly appreciated if more of you would send me address changes as they occur, both your own and those of others in your family. Many thanks in advance.

Homestead will be back in Fitch family hands. We hope so.

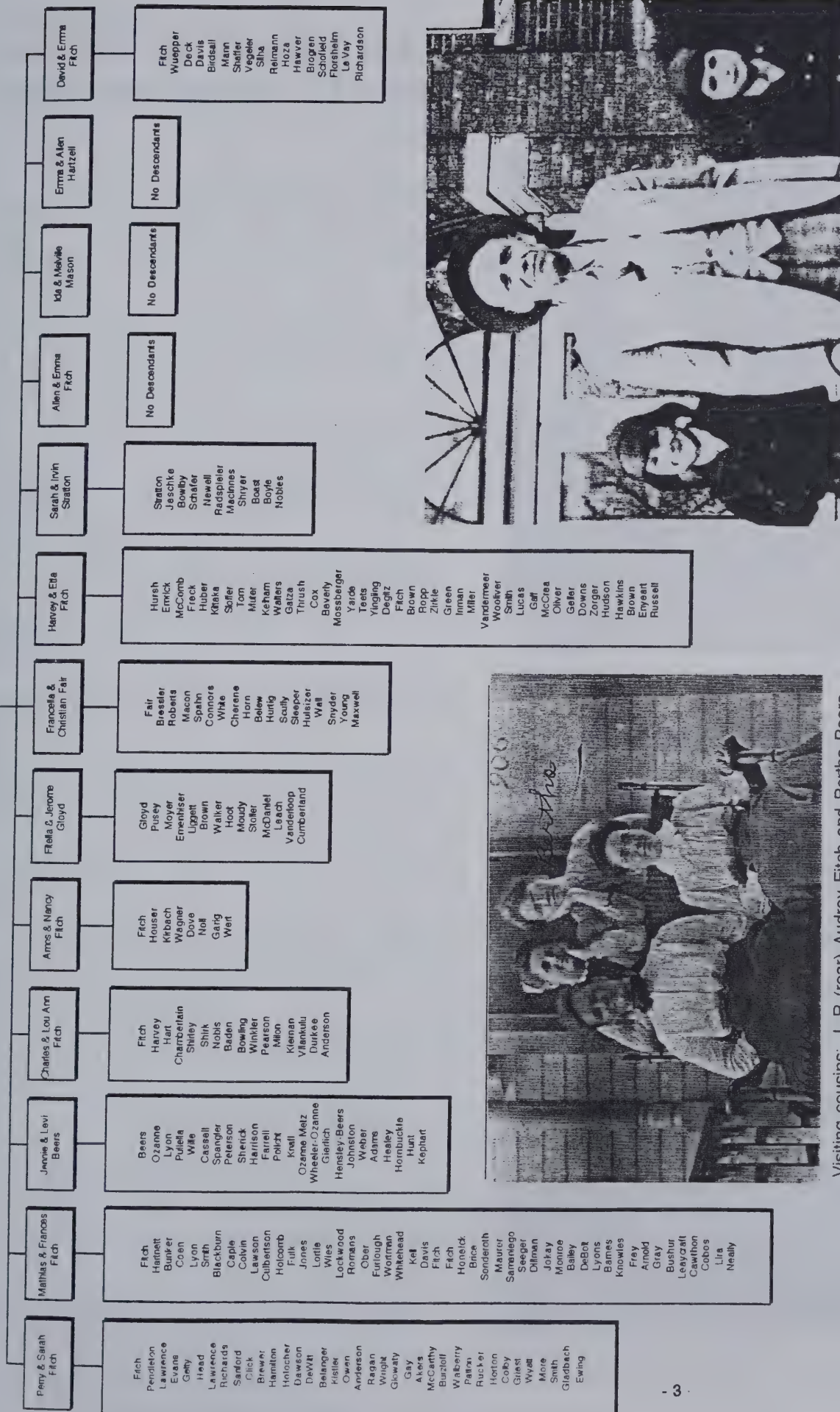
Now we need to know what's the best date for a Fitch Reunion in 1999. Historically, they were held on a weekend close to the 4th of July, although the 1994 Reunion was on Saturday, August 20.

We are thinking about having a casual reception on Friday evening for those who can make it, with the actual Reunion on Saturday afternoon. Maybe a restaurant or hotel dinner on Saturday evening, with a casual brunch gathering on Sunday morning.

What do you think?

A Quick Reference to Our Fitch Family Names

Nathaniel & Sarah Fitch



Bert Centennial Fitch, Perry Fitch's sixth son, who was born on the nation's 100th birthday (July 4, 1876). Pictured here with his grandsons, Oscar Alan and Kenneth Fitch. (c. 1933)



Visiting cousins: L-R (rear) Audrey Fitch and Bertha Beers, (front) Alice Beers and Nina Fitch. Audrey and Nina were daughters of Mathias Fitch. Bertha and Alice were daughters of Mathias' sister, Jennie Fitch Beers. (c. 1907)



Faint, illegible text in the top right section, possibly a header or title area.

A single line of faint, illegible text spanning the width of the page.



Faint, illegible text in the bottom right section, possibly a footer or concluding remarks.

A single line of faint, illegible text at the very bottom of the page.

About Allen Fitch

South St. Paul Stockyards Surround Pioneer's Home

(An article from the Minneapolis Tribune in 1948 or 49)

South St. Paul's sprawling stockyards have grown up and almost surrounded the frame house at 101 Fourth Avenue N. But Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fitch who built it back at the turn of the century expect to live out the rest of their days in it.

Fitch, still erect at 92, came to South St. Paul in 1887 to begin the first livestock commission business with his brother, the late Charles Fitch. "We had a stockyard in Clarksville, Iowa, but Iowa was pretty slow," he said, recalling the early days.

And when cattle had to be transported north to a buyer in Grafton, N.D., for instance the trip was a long one and a hard one, Fitch said. The train would stop in Minneapolis or St. Paul so the cattle could be fed and watered. When the Fitch brothers decided to move their business, they picked South St. Paul.

"There was a company here, Brown and Spear, it was called -- we bought our bookkeeping equipment from them." Today, the firm is known as Brown and Bigelow, with a gigantic plant on University Avenue between the Twin Cities.

The Fitch brothers bought a mimeograph machine and sent out hundreds of letters. Before long, business was booming.

That's when Fitch went back to Iowa and married Emma Green (May 25, 1893). They've been married 55 years now. "And we're still happy," beamed 88 year old Mrs. Fitch.

Fitch recalls when the Mississippi River flooded the stockyards. Men worked into the night for many nights, placing sandbags to stop the flow of water and save the stock.

He knows the winter of 1887-88 was "absolutely the coldest in history." He remembers the dances held at South Park and the popularity of the meals at Mrs. McCauleffe's boarding house.

Mrs. Fitch recalls the many blocks she had to walk making church collections the fact that the town "wanted Al to run for mayor."

"My brother Charlie was mayor, but I didn't run because I had enough trouble without that," he said.

Today, Fitch and Co. still has an office in the Exchange building, overlooking the yards.

But, it's Oakley Fitch, the son of Charles, who is in charge today. "We don't do much anymore but just sit," Fitch said. "Most of our friends have passed on," echoed Mrs. Fitch.

Sometimes, Fitch walks down to take a look at the yards. But mostly, the two stay up on the hill, oblivious to the bustle down below them.

(Allen died in 1952 at 95 years old, while Emma lived to be 94. They had no children.)



Emma and Allen Fitch, who was Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's 11th child, born in 1857



Allen and Emma Fitch, as they appeared in the photo that accompanied the Tribune article (c. 1948 or 49)

An Excerpt from the:

Memoirs of Charles Oakley Fitch

(Charles Oakley Fitch, known as "Oak," was the son of Charles and Lou Ann Fitch and the grandson of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.)

My father and mother came by prairie schooner to northern Iowa, Butler County, near what is now Clarksville, Iowa, between Clarksville and Plainfield (shortly after they were married on April 18, 1868). They built a one room log cabin on the prairie. It was rugged living on the prairie. There was no wood, and during the winter they twisted hay into bundles and burned it to keep warm. One winter they burned corn, as it was not worth anything anyhow.

Before father left Indiana, he went with some of his neighbor boys to a college at Ft. Wayne. My uncle Allen (Fitch) told me once that he visited Charlie at the college, and that these tall raw boned country boys all chewed tobacco in school and spit most anywhere. Anyhow, father got a teacher's certificate, and when the country around him in Iowa settled up some, he taught school for a number of years in the little country school house and also had sing fests nights with all the neighbors.

Mother was midwife to the wives of the Iowa settlers, and, when the call came, she threw her side saddle on the mare, day or night and away she went.

Father kept a diary each day, temperature, etc. One item one day: "Shot two prairie chickens on the South 10." Another day: "Shot ducks, etc." Another item: "Hauled my hogs to town today and sold them for two cents per pound, live weight." Very cheap compared to present day's prices.

My uncle Allen came from Indiana and settle on land nearby but did not get married until many years later, when he married Emma Lewillian Green on May 25, 1893, when he moved to Minnesota. He batched it and also spent a great deal of his time at father's place.

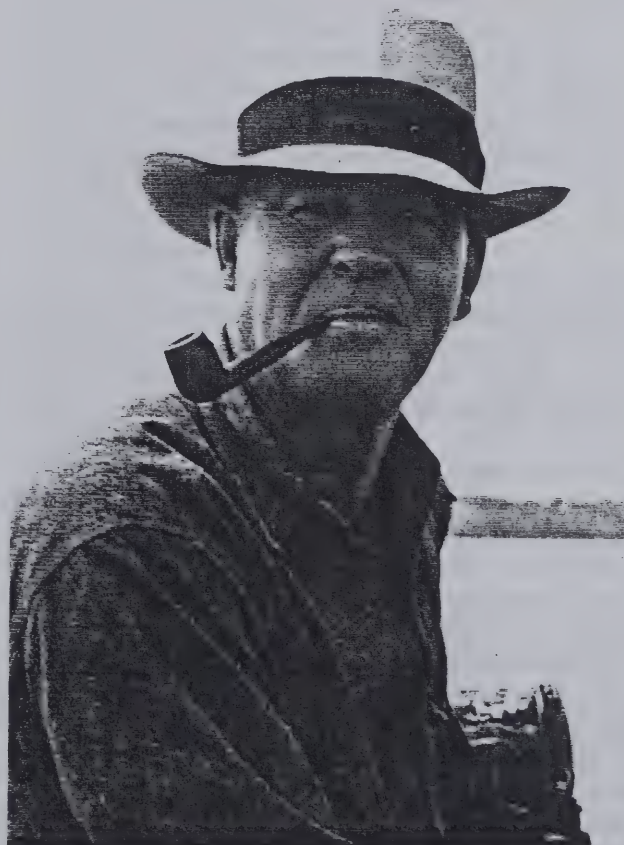
There were lots of wolves, raccoons, etc. which they killed, and at one time father had 30 dogs of different kinds for hunting. Mother used to have long, narrow pans to bake corn bread in every day to feed the dogs. They saved the pelts, especially the raccoons.

There was a big spring on the farm, and Father had it walled up so as to make a large pool some 20 feet square and 12 feet deep. He was dealing in horses then and had a big bunch of them, some of them with colts by their sides. When they came to drink, it was my older brother Nathaniel's job to see that the colts did not get kicked into the pool. One day Nat got kicked in. Father missed him and went to the pool and saw him lying on the bottom of the pool. He dove in and brought him up and with the assistance of Mother and (sister) May, they rolled him over a barrel to get the water out of his lungs, but to no avail.

I can remember the funeral, as Harry (another brother) and I had new shoes and new straw hats. The casket was placed in a lumber wagon, and Nat was buried in a small country cemetery, one of the first to be buried there. Nat had just turned 8 a few days before he died.



Marjorie Vivian Fitch with her parents, Charles Oakley Fitch and Genevieve S. Varian Fitch. Marjorie's dress of white satin trimmed with turquoise velvet was hand-made by her aunt.



Charles Oakley Fitch, who lived to be 80 years old, out fishing (date unknown)



Figure 1. A large, faint, rectangular image, possibly a photograph or a large diagram, occupying the upper left portion of the page.



Figure 2. A large, faint, rectangular image, possibly a photograph or a large diagram, occupying the lower left portion of the page.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The second part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The third part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The fourth part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The fifth part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The sixth part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The seventh part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The eighth part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The ninth part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

The tenth part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It then proceeds to a literature review, followed by a description of the methodology used. The results of the study are presented in the next section, followed by a discussion of the findings and their implications. The paper concludes with a summary of the main points and a list of references.

Recollections

The Stratton Family

by Marguerite Stratton Nobles, granddaughter of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch and Irvin Stratton. Written in 1974.

Any stories about the Stratton family for the most part have to be about Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton. She was born 10th in the family of Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth Fitch (on March 29, 1855) and was the first child born in the new house, known now as the Fitch Homestead. She went to the Fitch School and must have spent some time at the Seminary, for she recalled one of her big brothers putting her on the rail fence to watch the Union troops marching from Coldwater with fife and drum and supply wagons to entrain at Fort Wayne. At some time she must have spent some time at Valpariso University and at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

When her older sister, Jennie Fitch Beers, was teaching in Wabash in 1877 or 1878, Sarah went to Wabash to go to school and to help Jennie with her children and her house. At Wabash she met a young man, Irvin Franklin Stratton, who was reading law with his brother-in-law, Alvah Taylor. Later Irvin, with his brother Jerome, set up a law practice at Fort Wayne and subsequently won a judgeship in Allen County.

Irvin often went to visit Sarah during those years. She taught school in several townships, and Jerome Gloyd (her sister Fitelia's husband) was always urging her to take a school that had bad discipline problems.

She recalled one summer at home when she helped with the building of the Amos Fitch house. She and her mother cooked for the workers, and she drove a wagon over to Amos' each day with their noon dinner. She and her sister Ida both taught at country schools. Ida was a graduate of Fort Wayne College and also taught at New Haven, where she met Melville Mason, who later graduated from Michigan Dentistry College. Ida and Mel were married in 1890.

Sarah and Irvin were married at a double wedding with her sister Emma and Allen Hartzell on December 28, 1881. Sarah wore a plum colored velvet gown with a white bonnet with seed pearls. Her sister Fitelia was a beautiful seamstress and had taught her how to sew. I think that the velvet gown later became a suit for her oldest son Leander.

The folks built a house on Washington Avenue, near Broadway, in Fort Wayne. Irvin was always most interested in horses and especially the trotters. There were always races at local fairs, and the track was used at Sweeney Park. I think Sarah was a little more conservative and did not care too much about money spent for such horses.

Irvin was having problems with his brother, who liked his bottle a little too much. It was not good for a judge to be trying to help out with him, so the folks sold out and went to Wichita, Kansas, where Irvin had relatives and Sarah had friends. Sarah was closer to Aunt Frank (her sister Francelia Fitch Fair), and I recalled many trips to

Alden, Kansas, and visits from the Fair family.

A home was built there, and my early years were at that house. The barn and carriage house were built before the main house, and Harold (her younger brother) was born in the barn where the family had set up housekeeping until the main house was built. This was 1888.

My memories of the house are of a large garden on one side with three beautiful apricot trees next to the house for good eating and shade. Sarah never lived any place that she did not soon have a garden and trees and flowering plants in the house. On the other side past the drive was the peach orchard and strawberry beds.

Kansas was prairie, and the back yard was bare and windswept. Plenty of wind too. I remember seeing a whole line of clothes blown away. That area of Wichita was College Hill, and the folks were there during the Boom and Dust years. I think the folks finally lost a lot of money there. Sarah said that when Oklahoma Territory was opened up, she wanted to go and try for land. Irvin had been asked to go for they said he could eventually be the governor because of his legal training. He was then a judge in Wichita.

The fever to move on West was across the land, and Irvin wanted to go to California. Some of his family had already gone on there and were urging him to come too. A railway car was used, and the stock, the two race horses, and household goods they wanted, with Leander and Irvin went on west to San Bernadino. In a few days a telegram came that Irvin had been killed. He was exercising one of the horses with the sulky and was hit by an electric train. The horse was destroyed, and Irvin only lived a few hours. Irvin had been crippled in early years by a horse, and that might have had something to do with his not controlling the horse. Mother always felt that she should have gone on to California; that she could have won a lawsuit there with the rail company. And that was the end of our Kansas years.

We lived at Lakeside in Fort Wayne from the spring of 1902 until 1909. Those were good years in some ways and in others very difficult for Sarah. She did anything to make a home and keep her family together. For the first year we lived with Ida and Mel Mason, but that wasn't good for either family.

Mother finally built a house on the Loree side of the property that Aunt Ida owned, and we made that our home for the next years. Sarah did the washing for Mel's dental office and took care of Ida's house. She cared for some elderly women and made a home for them. I recall Della Gloyd lived with us a good many years until she was too ill to work. Audrey Fitch spent some time with us too, until she was married.

Leander had a very serious illness while there. The second time he had rheumatic fever, and we nearly lost him. He always wanted to go back west, and he did go and spend some time at the Fairs, where he was very happy. Harold had to drop out of school to help out, and he worked as a call boy for the railroad and later was with a car tracing company for several years. That work took him to

Milwaukee, and he was determined to have more education. So the next we knew, he was in Colorado working his way to go to a prep school to take up mining.

I went to Lakeside School and Clay School, and my older sister Helen only had one year of high school before we left Fort Wayne. I loved the times we got to go to the country, and Sarah took we two girls and spent several summers with Grandmother (Nathaniel's widow).

I remember reunions at that home under the big walnut tree in the yard, several at Ame's home, Mathias', the Gloyds' and even the Hartzell home at New Haven. Sarah always went to help with harvesting times with her various sisters, and I remember a "barn-raising" at the Gloyds' place. Those were good years to remember.

The two boys in the family wound up at the steel mill at the then new Gary, Indiana, and we decided to go there and make a home and help them as well as ourselves. We had really been too close to Aunt Ida and under her dominance too long, and Sarah felt she could and would do better on her own.

I loved the years that I went to high school: It was a new school, a new system and such an adventure. Helen graduated there head of her class. Harold jammed a lot of courses into one year and was able to enter Purdue University. I did not do so well grade-wise, but as I used to tell Sarah, "I passed!"

Sarah built a large house there for there were many young men to room and board that worked in the several plants and mills. She worked very hard, but she was a wonderful manager, and we always had good food and money to do the things that the other school children did and had. Harold and I have been so glad that in her later years we were able to pay her back for all that.

Leander and Helen both married while there at Gary, and they had families and their own lives to work for. Leander's wife Edna was ill, and he wanted to go west after her death (in August 1917). Helen and her husband, Claude Bowlby, had many moves...Hammond, Lafayette, Cincinnati and finally back to Fort Wayne.

I got two years of college at an expression school in Chicago, lived at home and commuted each day. I have always been a voracious reader and although music could have been my best love, we did not have money enough for that expensive education. So speech was the next best thing, and school teaching. I did not do too badly at that.

Sarah and I have always been so proud of the things that Harold (we called him "Strat") has been able to do with his life. From Purdue he wound up in the Isaac Johnson Foundry in New York and was soon plant superintendent there.

In World War I the German liner Leviathan had been impounded in New York harbor, but not before the crew had wrecked her engines. Strat took his pattern makers from the plant, and they rebuilt all of that, and the liner was used as a troop ship during the rest of the war.

In 1920 Strat moved to a foundry in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. In 1928 he and a man from Parkersburg, West Virginia, were urged by the banks to take over a foundry there that was not making it. They bought into it

on the steps of the Court House, and it has been Mountain State Steel Foundry since 1928.

And it has been all his know-how and push that has done it. I think that he is a throw-back to his grandfather Nathaniel Fitch. When he gets to pushing a little too much, I tell him, "His Fitch is showing."

Leander go Sarah and me to move with him to Montana. He has remained there ever since and has done his beloved ranching and lived a pretty good life, and raised a nice family.

I taught at a country school and then worked in the county superintendent office. A young man from the War in Europe (i.e. WWI) was a teacher in the high school, and we were quite attracted to each other. Clarence Nobles and I were married in Urbana, Illinois, on July 3, 1920, and we taught one year in Illinois.

We then went to Champaign for him to finish his degrees. Sarah was with us at that time, and from there we went to Virginia, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Clarence became very ill there, and the War caught up with the young lieutenant.

We had only eight years together, and I had a young man to raise (Robert Nobles). Sarah was like a brick wall at my back and said, "You do not stop here." We went to Peabody, at Nashville, and I got my degree there. Then we were going to go with Strat and make our home in Parkersburg. I to teach, I thought, but I wound up in the foundry too and loved it.

And so the English teacher wound up as office manager of a steel foundry. I had no office experience, but with the help of the auditors, I did a good job on the books and hanging onto money.

Strat never married. He had met a girl in New York, and they had planned to marry, but she died suddenly, and no other girl came along to take that place. He wanted me to come to Parkersburg, and we would both make a home for Sarah, ourselves and my son.

My son Bob had always had trouble with asthma, so we decided to send him to a private school in Asheville. It was fine for his health and for his education. He finished there and after that did two degrees at M.I.T. becoming an aeronautical engineer.

We almost lost him when he was on the flying boat, the Mars, when the test pilot crashed, and the plane broke up in Chesapeake Bay. Bob was rescued and came through with a minor concussion. He later worked at Convair in Texas and after a time decided that, if we expected him to help out at the foundry, he had better come there while Strat was still there. He is now vice president and manager there and is doing a job that we are proud of.

I made Strat work until he was 72, so that I could retire at 65. We played a lot of golf and did some traveling, including some trips to Florida, where we built a home in 1948 and went to live year-round in 1960. Strat would never have retired if he had stayed close to the foundry.

Sarah lived with us until she passed away in 1958 at the age of 103.

(Marguerite Stratton Nobles died in 1980, at the age of 84.)

Marie Fitch Houser and Arthur Houser

by Richard Houser, grandson of Amos and Nancy Fitch

I can't tell you much about (my parents) Marie and Arthur's courtship because there was little or no discussion on those matters in our household -- perhaps we kids weren't cleared for that information.

Before they were married (on October 16, 1916) and for some years after, Arthur never owned a car, and I could never figure out how he traveled from Garrett to Fort Wayne. There was a flag stop at Station 32 near the old Five Points Schoolhouse. I can remember seeing them lighting a newspaper and placing it on the tracks to flag the interurban from Fort Wayne at night.

I do remember the first car Arthur bought -- a used Elgin touring car from Uncle Rolland (Fitch). On the first driving lesson from Uncle Rol, he promptly drove it into a ditch north of Garrett.

Later, Arthur and Marie made a point of showing us kids (Richard, Margaret and Joan) the greatness and the scenic wonders of this great country of ours. We shall never forget trips around the Great Lakes, to Gettysburg, Washington, Monticello, Rockies, Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and the Badlands.

(From an article in *The Garrett (Indiana) Clipper*, April 26, 1984) After working as a clerk in the B&O store-

keeper's office, at age 27 Arthur formed a partnership with Roy Reyher in 1907 to engage in the men's clothing business in a small wooden store at the southwest corner of Quincy and Randolph in Garrett. A year later Reyner quit the business, and in 1915 Arthur erected a two-story brick building at 125 Randolph Street, where his store occupied the south half of the first floor. At 36, with some financial security, Arthur married Marie Fitch (then 25), and they set up housekeeping in the apartment over the store.

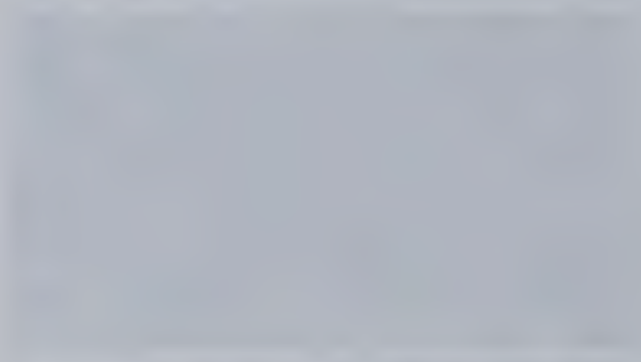


Celebrating Marie Fitch Houser's 90th birthday: L-R (front) Joan Dove, Marie Fitch Houser, Elaine Kirbach, Joan Houser; (rear) Linda Kirbach, Kathy, Mark and Kent Houser, Larry Noll, William Rammel (Nancy Hunter Fitch's brother's grandson), Carol ? and Judy Dove. Descendants of Amos and Nancy Fitch. (6-29-81)



"Fitches and Melons at Uncle Ame's" L-R: Amos, Paul Roberts (a friend of Burgess'), David, Marguerette, Belle (David's wife), Nancy (Amos' wife), Marie, Gladys and Burgess Fitch (kneeling) at Amos Fitch's farm in Dekalb County. (c. 1905)

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...



...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...



...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

Family Heirloom Books

In the mid-1960's I visited my grandmother, Margie Beers Ozanne, at the home in which she had lived for 60 years. The property had been taken by eminent domain for a new post office, and she was preparing to move out. We spent an evening in the attic prowling through a lifetime collection of family materials.

While she could identify much of what we saw, I remember that she puzzled over some things, including a number of very old photos. "I know that she's "family," but I'm not sure who she is."

I was fortunate that my mother lived to be 83 and that she was able to identify most of our family heirlooms and photos and to tell some stories about them.

As a result, I felt an obligation to make sure that my son, who is 49 years younger than I am, will be as fortunate as I was. I am passing along what I've done to record my family heritage to all my Fitch kin, in the hopes that your descendants or relatives a hundred years from now will not puzzle over an old photo of "family" or an heirloom that was lovingly kept for generations.

First, I unearthed and researched all our old family photos up through the 1960's. After applying identification labels to the photos' backs, I placed them in photo albums with identical labels on the acetate sleeves. This way the photo does not have to be removed to read the label..

Second, I created an "Family Heirloom Book" from a large photo album. I took photos of all the family heirlooms, including meaningful things that my wife and I have acquired or made. Every other page is a stiff paper on which I have printed the origins, stories and meaning of the facing photos. I've included family recipes (e.g. our home-made wedding cake) with photos of the various dishes.

Unlike photos, many heirlooms do not lend themselves to being written on, so this is a way to identify tools, furniture, toys, china, silver and clothing. We have a blanket that was woven at the Fitch Homestead from Fitch wool. Much used, it would be easy for someone who does

not know its provenance to discard it in the distant future.

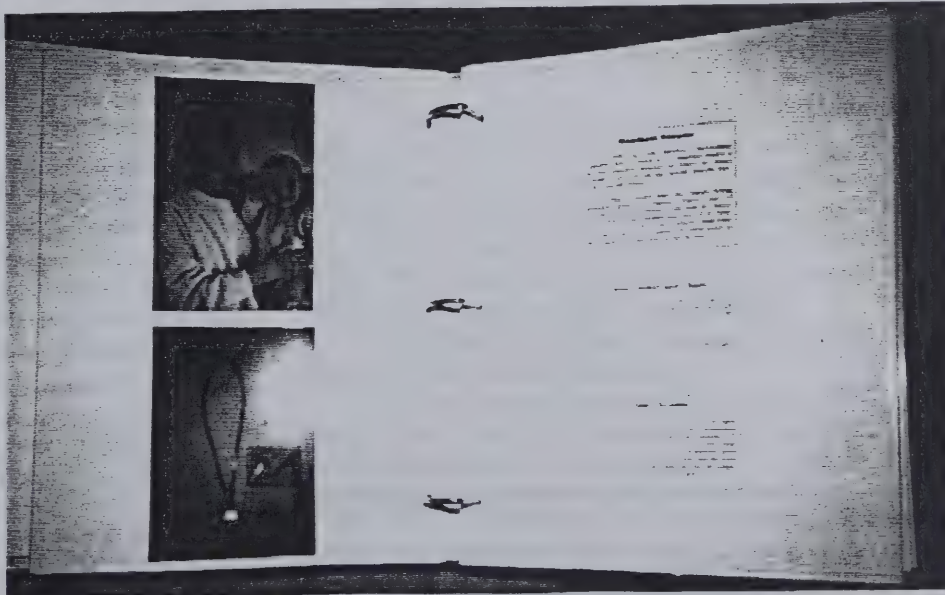
It's also a way to display heirlooms that are buried deep in cedar chests or the attic, without having to dig them out when someone asks about them. Multiple books for multiple children provide means to share the family history and heirlooms, even when the actual item is one-of-a-kind.

Of course, it's important to keep it "up-to-date" as you acquire "new" family heirlooms.



The earliest known photo of Amos Fitch, Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's 6th child, who was born in 1849. Amos had yet to grow his distinctive beard, which is evident in an early stage in the photo on page 9 of the Winter '95 Newsletter, so he was probably around 20 years old in this photo. (Note: Amos was their 5th child to live to adulthood. Nancy, who was born in 1848, died within six months of her birth.)

A photo and a description page from the Cassell Family Heirloom book: Above is Bernadine, my wife, holding our son Alex, who is wearing a hand-made woolen sweater from Sr. M. Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch). Below is a gold locket and chain that belonged to Jennie Fitch. Inside the locket is a plaited lock of blond hair, which belonged to a Perry County beau who marched off to the Civil War. Also below is a gold sewing thimble engraved with "MJFB - 99", which belonged to Jennie, whose given name was Mary Jane Fitch and who was married to Levi Beers in 1873; thus "MJFB".





(

(

(

The Preacher's Note

(In October 1991 I came into possession of my great uncle Kenneth Fitch Beers' autobiography, which I subsequently published. Four years later, I found a separate but related letter among my late mother's papers. The 100-year old letter had been passed from Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers to their daughter (my grandmother) and then on to my mother. While the letter is interesting, it's context and importance to Levi and Jennie would have been lost without Kenneth's story. This illustrates the importance of writing down or recording family stories.)

From Kenneth Beers' *The Preacher's Boy*: page 52

In this chapter my father takes the center of the stage, his troubles being almost as numerous as those that fell to the lot of ancient Job, except that Job had boils. There was another difference. Job was a man of wealth, my father was a minister of the gospel, a hand to mouth existence at its best in those early days of Methodism in Western Pennsylvania.

Our family had made few staunch friends. There were some persons in each town (where he ministered) who recognized superior qualities of education and culture with which nature and hard work had endowed my parents, and their friendship was a cherished thing.

When my father saw that for his children's sake he must seek other fields, he borrowed \$2,000 from a friend in Brookville. One thousand was all he needed for building purposes, but his friend preferred to keep the two thousand intact, so my father accepted the loan. In Harvey (where the family had moved), he loaned in turn the second thousand to a down state resident.

It was our custom to keep valuable papers in our home in a strong box. Banks nearby were a convenience we did not have. The note given for the second thousand was in a purse in the kitchen. Careless perhaps, but preachers in general had few papers of value in those days. Anyway, we thought everyone was honest.

This time our wash woman was the exception to the honest rule. She saw the box, opened it and took the purse and its contents to her home. Soon it was missed. All clues pointed toward this woman. Father called at her home, she saw him coming and hastily burned the papers in her stove. She denied knowing anything of the purse.

Later she confessed her crime. The confession was not enough to satisfy the maker of the note. He insisted on waiting to pay the \$1000.00 until the note was legally outlawed. For ten years, according to Illinois law, my father had this note over his head and the interest to pay.

(The letter that had been so carefully preserved all these years was a letter from the thief to Jennie. The spelling and punctuation is that of the writer.)

Dear Mrs. Beers,

Hear in the silence of my room at midnight I seat

myself to write a few lines you will be surprised I know, but I feel as though I could not leave without doing it as I am about to do for part's unknown. I am the one that took your money. I started for your house on that day to ask for aid as we were almost destitute and my daughter lay very sick and I had no means to get medicine, coal or food. I went to the door and knocked. No one came. I turned the knob and went in and there before my eyes on a desk lay a pocket-book. The first thought I had - it is for me. I just opened it to see if there was anything in it and then I fled, but after I got home, I saw what I had done. I found the notes. I did not dare to take them back and one day someone said Mr. Beers is coming this way, and I was so afraid I went and burned up all the papers but I am going to where I can earn money and I will try to earn enough to pay you all up if God spares my life. Pray for me so if there is any salvation for my poor soul, I may be saved and helped.

(Unsigned)

(As far as I can determine, they never heard from the woman again.)

More on the Fitches and the Military

by Kay Fitch

My husband, Stephen David Fitch, who passed away on December 5, 1989, and was David Fitch's grandson by Hurshel, was a naval officer during World War II.

After two years at Purdue University, where he was in ROTC, he was an apprentice seaman on a training cruise, aboard the U.S.S. Wyoming. Upon completion of the cruise, he was commissioned a midshipman and went to midshipman school at Abbott Hall in Chicago. He was in the first class of "90 day wonders," ensigns after just three months of concentrated study, graduated on December 12, 1940, and was assigned to the U.S.S. New Mexico. He served in the engineering departments on all his ships.

The New Mexico was a battleship whose purpose was to accompany convoys in the Atlantic. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, his ship was in port at Portland, Maine.

In January 1942 Steve was ordered to report to Balboa, Canal Zone, where he was assistant port director until February 1943, when he was assigned to the "new" Yorktown, an aircraft carrier which was being built at the Norfolk Naval Yard. He served on the Yorktown until July 1945, at which time he was transferred back to the Norfolk facility for the commissioning of the Midway.

In August, when the war in the Pacific ended, he applied for and received a discharge.

Steve's father, Hurshel Fitch, served in the Navy during World War I, as evidenced by his name and star on the Fitch's World War I "service flag."

The WW I Fitch Service Flag is among the our preserved heirlooms, but we're still looking for the U. S. flag that was sewed by Nathaniel's daughters during the Civil War and displayed at Reunions.

Newspaper Obituary of Sarah E. Fitch

Auburn Courier - September 2, 1908

AT ADVANCED AGE

Death at Huntertown of Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch

The Mother of Dr. D. N. Fitch, of This City

Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch, the mother of Dr. D. N. Fitch, of this City, died Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock at her home in Perry township, Allen County, near Huntertown, aged 90 years, of the infirmities due to her advanced age.

Mrs. Fitch was a lady of many noble traits of character and was highly esteemed by a wide circle of friends. She was a Christian lady, a devoted wife and a loving mother.

The funeral will occur Friday forenoon at 9:30 from the residence, the services being at 10 o'clock at the Cemetery Church in Huntertown.

The following are the children: Nancy and John died in infancy; Perry the elder died eight years ago; Josiah M. Fitch of Huntertown; Mrs. J. F. Beers of Colorado; Charles and Allen Fitch, both of South St. Paul, Minnesota; Amos Fitch of DeKalb County, Indiana; Mrs. Francelia Fair of Alden, Kansas; Fipelia (sic) Gloyd of Fort Wayne; Harvey Fitch of Huntertown; Mrs. Sarah E. Stratton of Fort Wayne; Mrs. Ida S. Mason of Fort Wayne; Mrs. Emma Hartzell of New Haven and Dr. D. N. Fitch of Auburn.

The following sketch of her life has been furnished the Courier by relatives.

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, widow of Nathaniel Fitch, and pioneer of Allen County, Ind., was born in Miami County, Bethel township, Ohio, May 29, 1819, the daughter of George and Sarah Stattler Delong. She came to DeKalb county, Ind., to the home of her sister, Mrs. Abram Fair, where she met Mr. Fitch, to whom she was married June 4, 1840. They located in Perry township, Allen county, Ind., which place became her permanent home the remainder of her life.

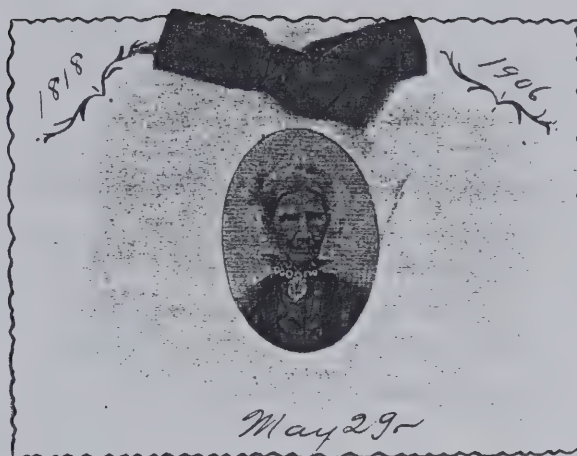
She was left a widow by the death of her husband January 1, 1877. A large number of immediate relatives survive her. She was the mother of fifteen children, twelve of whom are living, forty-six grandchild and twenty-eight great grandchildren.

Mrs. Fitch was christened in infancy in the German Reformed church. She united with the Methodist Episcopal church of which she was a consistent member up to the time of her death.

She was of a religious, charitable nature and her life was full of good deeds, for she gave with an open hand to the poor and needy.

The call of the sick and suffering was answered by her presence as often as both physician and nurse. Her influence and help has been far reaching through her long life and it can be said of her "She did what she could" and when in her 90th year the summons came, she was ready to go.

(NOTE: Can anyone tell me if Mathias was actually "Josiah Mathias" or was this a typo?)



A birthday card for Sarah E. Fitch on her 88th birthday.

Newspaper Obituary of Sarah E. Fitch

New Haven newspaper? - Date Unknown

GRANDMA FITCH DIES

The venerable mother of Allan Hartzell passed away at Huntertown, Wednesday morning. At the last Fitch reunion held two months ago it was seen that Grandma Fitch could not long survive. Past the age of 90, she had reached the time when any minute might bring the summons. She had always been strong but age overcomes strength. While sitting in bed receiving attention from members of the family, the aged head bent forward, a sigh escaped the lips and the spirit was gone.

- Cemetery from Page 1 -

The cemetery, which had been used from 1835 to 1896, was all but forgotten, overgrown with scrub, trees and vines.

Recently, Dennis R. Gloyd (Fitelia Fitch Gloyd's great grandson), who lives on Dafforn Road, took an interest in the old cemetery. "Throughout time the small cemetery had its battle with nature, neglect and vandals," said Dennis.

The cemetery, now called the Wesley Chapel, Jonston, Watterson Cemetery, sits at a bend in the road where north-south Taylor road makes a sharp turn to the east-west Aetna road. A neon green-painted wooden stake marked the spot recently.

The sorry sight of scattered, broken and illegible tombstones caused Dennis to work toward a goal of installing a plaque at the site that listed the names of all those known to be buried in the cemetery. He copied as many bits and pieces of the broken stones as he could, then tried to piece the names together jigsaw-puzzle fashion with the aid of census records and the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department.

Finally, Dennis gathered 38 names and partial names on a list, bought the materials and had a plaque engraved and installed on the site.



[Faint, illegible text in the left column, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

[Faint, illegible text in the right column, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Perry Township Mills

The Fitch mills were described in the Fall 1993 Newsletter (page 28). Recently Bob and Evelyn Gloyd and Mary Louise Fitch sent me a copy of a poem about the Gloyd's mills, which were also known as the Vandolah's and Cedar Creek Mills. The Fitches, Gloyds and Vandolahs were all related through marriage: Perry Fitch married Sarah Gloyd, Mathias Fitch married Frances Vandolah and Fitelia Fitch married Jerome Gloyd.

The Gloyd sawmill was built by James Vandolah between 1835 and 1839, when it commenced operation. Successive family-related owners were George Gloyd, Jerome Gloyd (son of George and husband of Fitelia Fitch) and Edwin (brother of Jerome). The sawmill, which was equipped with an upright saw, was abandoned during the ownership of Jerome, but a grist mill with three four and a half foot French buhrstones continued in operation.

One buhrstone was used for processing flour, another for grinding cornmeal and the third was used for grinding chop feed for animals. The mill was powered by one large over-shot wheel and an immense turbine wheel which now lies buried in the silt and sand on the mill site near Big Cedar Creek (see map on page 7).

The Fitch saw mill was operated by Mathias Fitch until 1908, and the building was abandoned. Subsequently, part of the mill building fell down (see photo of Fitch sawmill below), and the remainder was dismantled.

Memories of Gloyd's Mill

by Estella Rowe, 1938

On a winding road at the foot of a hill
Are the tumbled down walls of Gloyd's old mill.

It's a scene of the past, our grandfathers made,
And a place where their children oft times played.

The miller was kind, so people have said,
And he ground their flour to make their bread.

The hills were steep and hard to climb,
But the trip was made many a time.

Across the creek still stands the bridge,
And the miller's home upon the ridge.

Those days are gone, but our memories still
Take us back again to the grand old mill.

Horsedrawn wagons plowed through the mud,
Sometimes a wheel mired down to its hub.

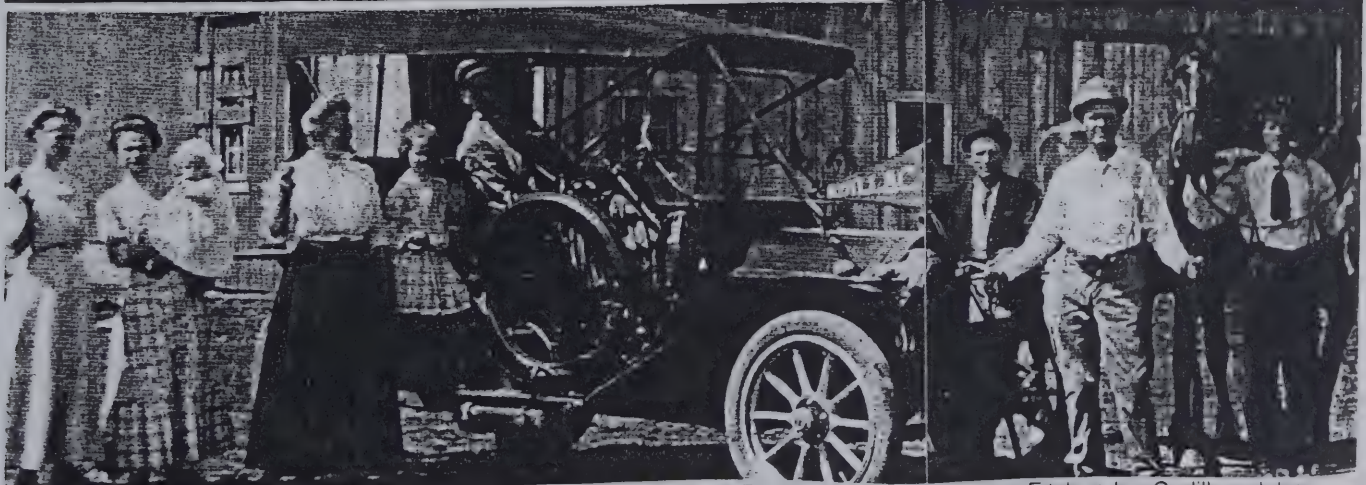
'Twas common in winter to travel by sled
To get the flour to bake the bread.

Our late improvements and modern skill
Have banished the ways of the old water mill.

A Dream of the future that we might see -
What a beautiful park these hills could be.

If you have family stories, photos, memorabilia, etc. and would like to share them with your near and distant Fitch cousins, write or call me. Also, please keep me informed of new addresses, births, marriages, divorces and deaths. Thanks.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Ave.
Lexington MA 02173
617-862-6172



L-R: Genevieve Fitch, Stella Varien with baby, Emma (Mrs. Allen) Fitch, Marjorie Fitch, Allen Fitch in his Cadillac, John Varien, Charles Oakley Fitch with a rifle & Richard Varien at Elizabeth Varien's farm in Hastings MN. (c. 1912)

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Spring 1998



Youngest Descendant of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch



Bryce Alfred Johnston, the son of Jim and Gail and a descendant of Jennie Fitch Beers, was born on April 27, 1998, almost 192 years after Nathaniel Fitch was born. Holding him is his 4-year old sister Katelyn Johnston.

Everything's up-to-date in Allen County, Indiana, as Grace Fitch (left), the daughter of John and Belle Fitch and granddaughter of Mathias Fitch, and a friend pose on an aeroplane around 1917. The design of the aeroplane (the pilot's seat, the steering gear, the rear propeller, the wooden construction) is typical of the sort used in rural flight demonstrations in this period. Interestingly, Grace's son, John A. Caple, was a pilot who died in a plane crash in 1992. (c. 1917)

See You There!!

Next Fitch Reunion - Summer 1999

The first documented Fitch Family Reunion took place in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead. The last one was in 1994 at Northside Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The next one is being planned for the summer of 1999, probably for a weekend in July or August, somewhere in the vicinity of Fort Wayne.

The planning will start in earnest in late 1998 and,
See Reunion - page 2

In This Issue:

1999 Fitch Family Reunion in Fort Wayne
Fitches Identified in '27 and '33 Reunion Photos
Books Written About the Fitch Family
From Whom Are We Descended? James or Thomas?
"Vacations and Camp Meetings" by Kenneth Fitch
Is There a Fitch Family Newsletter in Our Future?
Fitch Recollections and Bits and Pieces
And Many More Fitch Family Photos



Nathaniel and Sarah's second son, Mathias Fitch, with his wife, Frances Vandolah Fitch. (c. 1920)

- Reunion from Page 1 -

even though the family has a century-plus of experience in holding reunions, we will need some significant help from descendants living in the Fort Wayne area. Some of the tasks include locating and reserving a Reunion site and restaurants for family gatherings, with all the required tables, chairs, table clothes, etc.

Carolyn Davis, now deceased, and Betty and Warren Fitch handled the local details in 1994. Betty and Warren can provide information of what needs to be done locally.

We need to know what's the best date(s) for the Reunion. Historically, they were held on a weekend close to July 4th, although the 1994 Reunion was on Saturday, August 20.

We are seriously considering a longer Reunion, possibly starting on Friday afternoon and continuing through Sunday morning. David Fitch's family, most of whom travelled some distance to attend, did just that in 1994. Others felt that there just wasn't enough time to get acquainted with their kin and their ancestral landmarks during a one day Reunion.

Our tentative plans are to have a casual reception on Friday evening for those who can make it, with the actual Reunion from 11:30AM to 4:00pm on Saturday. Maybe a restaurant supper on Saturday evening, with a casual brunch gathering on Sunday morning.

Your thoughts and suggestions on our upcoming Reunion would be greatly appreciated.

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance - 1/2/97	\$ 88.26
Contributions from Fitch Descendants	\$880.00
In Memory of Lucille Ozanne Cassell	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$2,468.26

Expenses

Composition	\$ 43.77
Printing	\$580.13
Envelopes and Labels	\$ 47.77
Postage	\$118.72
3rd Class Mailing Permit Renewal	\$ 85.00
Remailing Newsletters	<u>\$109.46</u>
Winter '97 Newsletter Sub-total	\$984.85

Photography Supplies & Printing	\$144.75
Vital Records Update	\$ 84.40
Miscellaneous Postage	<u>\$ 72.64</u>
Other Expenses Sub-total	\$301.79

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,286.64

Ending Balance - 2/18/98 \$1,181.62

Estimated Cost of This Newsletter \$1,050.00
Estimated Cost of Other Expenses \$200.00

PROJECTED BALANCE - 6/1/98 (\$ 68.38)



Through a contribution to the Fitch Fund in fond memory of their mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell (seated left), who enjoyed attending Fitch Family Reunions, Sandra Peterson, Bill Cassell and Susan Spangler (seated right) have nearly erased the Newsletter's projected deficit.

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Alyce Adams	Enid Honeick
Mary Baird	Richard Houser
Richard Beers	Gail & Jim Johnston
Trumin P. Brown	Bill Le Vay
Bill Cassell	Francina Mann
Sharon & David Davis	Jean & Dan McCrea
Alice & Jerry Deck	Florella Moudy
Joan Dove	Norman E. Moudy
Sr. M. Alma Louise	Jon Oakley Pearson
Betty & Warren Fitch	John & Elizabeth Pearson
Linwood R. Fitch	Sandra Peterson
Sue Ann Fitch	Christy Scofield
Victor K. Fitch	Carl E. Shafer
William D. Fitch	Susan Spangler
William S. Fitch II	James & Teresa Wortman
Ann & Joe Geller	

Without their generous financial support of the Newsletter, we would be hard pressed to continue its annual publication and distribution to the 400 families descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

Write, call, or email with your thoughts on the 1999 Reunion. Send your family photos and stories. I'll dupe the photos and return the originals.

Bill Cassell	Voice: 781-862-6172
9 Independence Avenue	FAX: 781-862-5319
Lexington, MA 02173	email: cassellcw@aol.com

A Fitch Editorial

This will be the fifth Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter which I have edited and published since 1993. There will be at least two more issues: One in the spring of 1999 (probably a small one that promotes the 1999 Reunion), and one after the Reunion, which will share the event with those who could not attend.

At this time I am uncertain whether there will be any Newsletters after 1999. In the newsletters published to-date, I have shared all of the stories and most of the photos of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, our common ancestors, as well as many of the photos and stories of their children. *Jennie's Family*, a 96-page book of family stories was published in 1992, distributed to all of my great grandmother's descendants and made available to any other interested kin.

With each succeeding Newsletter, I receive fewer and fewer family stories and photos from Fitch descendants, and those items usually relate to kin who are farther and farther away from our common ancestors.

Very few cousins keep me up-to-date on their families' vital records of births, deaths, marriages, etc. Our address records get woefully out-of-date each year, and I end up mailing Newsletters to old addresses, paying for address corrections from the Post Office, and remailing additional copies.

After each Newsletter I receive notes of thanks and financial support from 25 to 30 cousins, which are deeply appreciated. However, the cost of the printing and mailing the Newsletter always exceeds the contributions received. In the final analysis, the financial viability of the Newsletter has always depended on my immediate family's contributions, as detailed in the Treasurer's Reports.

Finally, the physical creation of the Newsletter is no small task. It takes many hours to type and paginate the stories, to size and duplicate the photos, and to package and organize the Newsletters for mailing.

I cannot help but wonder whether we are reaching the natural end of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family Newsletter. Is it time for those of us who are interested in our families' pasts to focus our efforts closer to home? I know that I am aware of a large pile of audio cassettes upon which my mother recorded her memories, and I keep thinking that I should be transcribing them for my son and my immediate cousins.

Ideally, someone in each family (e.g. Perry's, Mathias', etc.) would step forward, and a series of Fitch Newsletters would be developed. As the keeper of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family records, I would be only too happy to assist these individuals, providing copies of photos, documents, etc.

My thoughts about this matter should not be interpreted as a resignation. I remain willing and able to continue publishing the Newsletter. Hopefully, this question can be discussed and resolved at the 1999 Reunion. In the meantime, your thoughts on the matter would be appreciated, as would contributions to its financial well-being.

Bill Cassell
Newsletter Editor



L-R: Margarita, Alice Nathalia (as in "Nathaniel"), and Bertha Beers, daughters of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers in a studio photo. (Can anyone figure out what the "bowling ball" figure is in the backdrop, just above Bertha's head?) c. 1888

Fitch Bits & Pieces

From James Wortman: "My wife, Teresa, is the granddaughter of Otis and Esther Fitch (Mathias' descendants). We found it curious that we had named our daughter 'Sara Elizabeth' unwittingly." Sarah Elizabeth has been a common combination of first names in our family since Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch, Nathaniel's wife.

Corrections for Winter 1997 Newsletter

Page 3 - In the Quick Reference Guide to Family Names
Descendants of Sarah - Add Baird & Southwick
Descendants of David - Add Farren
Schofield should be Scofield

Page 3 - Photo of "Visiting Cousins"
Audrey and Nina Fitch are daughters of Harvey Fitch, not Mathias.

Page 19 - Top photo of Charles Fitch's family
Mabel and Rosie May Fitch are the daughters of Charles Fitch, not his sisters.



Thanks to Elaine Kirbach, Betty Fitch and Dick Houser, we have determined that this Fitch Family Reunion photo was taken on July 4, 1927, at Amos Fitch's home, and we have identified 27 of our kin. See the key on page 5.



Again, with the help of Elaine, Betty and Dick, we know that this Fitch Family Reunion photo was taken on July 4, 1933, at Harvey Fitch's home. See the key on page 5.

Books About Fitches

Fitch Family History - Nathaniel & Sarah
by Carolyn Kell Davis, 1972

Lineage and photos of ancestors and descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.
History of the Fitch Family 1400 - 1930
by Roscoe Conkling Fitch, 1930

Two volume set, with stories, lineage and photos of the extended Fitch family.

Jennie's Family 1806 - 1992 ***
by Bill Cassell (editor), 1992

Kenneth Fitch's story of Jennie Fitch Beers' family, Nathaniel and Sarah stories, Jennie's family tree, stories by and about Margie Beers Ozanne, and many photos.

Descendants of the Rev. James Fitch ***

A Fitch Family History: English Ancestors of the Fitches of Colonial Connecticut ***
Puritan in the Wilderness: Biography of Rev. James Fitch, 1622 - 1702 ***

by John T. Fitch, Kalmia Co. Inc., Dept 3
71 Dudley St., Cambridge MA 02140

*** Still available. Other are out-of-print.

(Photo at left)

- 1 - Helen Hawver
- 2 - Gladys Fitch
- 3 - Roland Fitch
- 4 - Mabel Anderson
- 5 - Marie Houser
- 6 - Pearl Gladbach
- 7 - Ida Mason
- 8 - Esther Fitch
- 9 - Fred Gladbach
- 10 - James Fitch
- 11 - Stephen Fitch
- 12 - Joan Gladbach
- 13 - Richard Houser
- 14 - Joan Houser
- 15 - Elaine Houser
- 16 - Phyllis McComb
- 17 - Robert Gloyd
- 18 - Sara Fair
- 19 - Elsie Fitch
- 20 - Maxine Fitch
- 21 - Enid Davis
- 22 - Billy Hunt
- 23 - Clarence Davis
- 24 - Arthur Houser
- 25 - Warren Fitch ?



- 1 - Forrest Fitch
- 2 - Bert C. Fitch
- 3 - Arvilla Gloyd
- 4 - Viola Fitch
- 5 - Effie Fitch
- 6 - Amos Fitch
- 7 - Belle Fitch
- 8 - Mabel D. Anderson
- 9 - Fitellia Gloyd
- 10 - Gladys Fitch
- 11 - Stella Gloyd
- 12 - Marie Houser
- 13 - Margaret Fitch
- 14 - Roland Fitch
- 15 - Otis Fitch
- 16 - Hurshel Fitch
- 17 - Mabel Fitch
- 18 - Nina Emrick
- 19 - Stephen Fitch
- 20 - Richard Fitch
- 21 - Ida Mason
- 22 - James Fitch
- 23 - Elaine Houser
- 24 - Joan Houser
- 25 - Harvey Fitch
- 26 - Kenneth Harvey
- 27 - Etta Fitch





Fitch Castle, from an illustration in Tennyson's "A Dream of Fair Women," published by James R. Osgood & Co., of Boston 1880.

"Fitch Castle in the North" was the stronghold of the "House of Fitch" during the "Age of Chivalry," according to Roscoe Conkling Fitch, author of *History of the Fitch Family 1400 - 1930*.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, the English poet laureate, was proud of the record of his Fitch ancestors, who held sway at Fitch Castle for many centuries.

Kenneth Fitch Smith, a descendant of Perry Fitch, prompted us to look up the Fitch Castle, when he wrote that he was planning a trip to England and was curious about its location.

According to Roscoe Conkling Fitch, "John Fitch of 'Fitch Castle in the North' in Widdington, County Essex, who was living in the castle in 1294, was a direct ancestor of the four Fitch brothers who settled in Connecticut." Our family is descended from one of those four brothers, whose progeny abounded in New England in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Widdington appears to be a small village located about 35 miles north of London, just west of highway M-11. Hopefully, Kenneth will update us on the castle's existence upon his return.

If you have been to Widdington or know any more about Fitch Castle, please write to the Newsletter Editor.

A Genealogical Puzzle...

From Whom Are We Descended?

There is some confusion over our Fitch roots. While our family historian, Carolyn Davis, wrote that our Nathaniel Fitch was descended from Major James Fitch's grandson, John, in *The Fitch Family History*, it appears that this is not the case. It is indeed possible that we are not descended from Governor William Bradford of the Plymouth Colony, as our ancestors believed.

This connection has been questioned for some time. Helen Bowlby, the daughter of Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, commissioned a researcher to investigate whether our Fitch line was descended from the Rev. James Fitch many years ago. More recently, Betty Fitch and Francina Mann have been exploring this link.

Since we have a fragile, handwritten document in our archives that deserves preservation and that partially explains Carolyn's connections, we'll begin with what our "family story" is.

"Fitch Family"

"The Fitch Family is one of the most ancient and honorable in America. The line is traced back to Rev. James Fitch (1622-1702), and his son, Major James Fitch (1649-1727); both of whom were conspicuous figures in the early Colonial History of Connecticut. The former was Chaplain of the Conn. forces in the great swamp fight in King Phillip's War, and the latter was a most noted Indian

fighter, and also assistant Gov. of Conn. Colony for twenty-six years.

"Rev. Jas. Fitch married Priscilla, daughter of Major John Mason of Pequod War fame; while the wife of Major James Fitch was Alice, daughter of Major William Bradford, and grand-daughter of Gov. Wm. Bradford, who came over in the Mayflower and was the second Gov. of Plymouth Colony, an office which he held for sixteen years.

"Major Jas. Fitch's oldest son was John Fitch, whose first son bore his name. John Fitch (II) also named his oldest son John (III). John Fitch (III) came from Conn. with his family about 1779, immediately after the Wyoming Massacre in 1778, and settled on what is known as Kingston Flats, across the Susquehanna River from what is now the City of Wilkes Barre and what is now the Borough of Kingston.

"His oldest son was Nathaniel Fitch who was born Feb'y 12, 1781 and died in Falls Township Sept. 14, 1839, aged 57 yrs. 7 mo. 2 da, and was buried in Fitch's Cemetery in Falls Township.

"On Aug. 29, 1801, in Falls Township he married Sarah Keeler, who was born at Ridgefield Conn on June 26, 1785 and died in Falls Township, Wyoming County, Pa. Feb'y 6, 1856, aged 70 yrs. 7 mo. 9 da and is buried by the side of her husband in Fitch's Cemetery. She was a member of the Baptist Church of Mill City Pa.

"Sarah Keeler Fitch was the daughter of Paul Keeler Jr. born April 9, 1756 and Sara Burt Cornwall, who were married in Ridgefield Conn - Feb 7, 1775. Paul

Keeler was a trumpeter in the Revolution Army in Sheldon's Light Horse from the State of Conn. His father, Paul Keeler Sr. was born in 1720 and was the son of Jos. Keeler, born in 1683, grandson of Samuel Keeler born 1656 and great grandson of Ralph Keeler, who was born in England in 1613, came to Hartford Conn. in 1640. His will is on file at Fairfield Conn. dated August 20, 1672."

While we don't know the origin of this document, it approximates how Carolyn saw our lineage from Rev. James Fitch down to Nathaniel and Sarah Keeler Fitch, the parents of our Nathaniel. Unfortunately, it leaves out either John Fitch II or III, both of whom are well documented. Carolyn's list, on the other hand, includes all the "Johns."

Rev. James Fitch, born 1622

Major James Fitch, born 1649

Captain John Fitch (I), born 1667-8

John Fitch (II)**, born 1704-5

John Fitch, Jr. (III), born 1732

John Fitch (IV), born 1756

Nathaniel Fitch (the father), born 1781

Nathaniel Fitch, Jr. (our Nathaniel), born 1801

(The ** indicates a John Fitch who married his first cousin's daughter, Alice Fitch, in 1731. Their son John, Jr. seems to have swum safely through that intimate gene pool.)

The problem with this lineage occurs with John Fitch (IV), the one who supposedly moved to Pennsylvania in 1779.

According to John T. Fitch's book, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, Vol. 1*, John Fitch (IV) was a tavern keeper in Windham, CT who died in Windham in 1807. He had four children, none of them named Nathaniel. One of them, James, was born in 1781, the year that Nathaniel was born. Also, Carolyn writes that our Nathaniel's grandfather died in 1801, not 1807. It is unlikely that John (IV) was our Nathaniel's grandfather.

Francie Mann, a descendant of David Fitch, corresponded with John T. Fitch, and he writes that "according to the Rogers Collection at the Connecticut State Library, the John that had children Gideon and Nathaniel was from Thomas Fitch, not James. He married Elizabeth Lockwood on November 6, 1766. (His son,) Nathaniel was born in Fairfield County (CT) on February 12, 1782. I don't know the birthday of (his brother) Gideon. John lived in Luzerne (now Wyoming) County, Pennsylvania, but I don't know where he died."

It is interesting to note that the birthdays of Nathaniel Fitch (the father) given by John T. Fitch and Carolyn Davis are February 12, 1782, and February 12, 1781, respectively. These two are almost certainly the same man; and, since John T. Fitch has documentation that ties a Nathaniel and a Gideon Fitch to a John Fitch and to the right area in Pennsylvania, it is very likely that we are descended from Thomas Fitch and not his brother James.

Now being descended from Thomas Fitch is nothing to be ashamed of. Born in 1612, Thomas was one of the founders of Norwalk, Connecticut, Captain of

Connecticut troops, Recorder of Laws, the King's Commissioner from 1669 to 1694, Deputy to the General Court for 11 years, and Deputy Governor of Connecticut. He was not, however, Governor of Connecticut in 1754-1766, as Carolyn wrote. She confused the first Thomas with his great grandson, who was indeed the governor.

Thomas Fitch had two sons, Captain Thomas Fitch and John Fitch, both of whom had male children in the 1630's. As was common practice, John named his first son, born in 1677, John, and his second son, born in 1682, Nathaniel. With those two names in Thomas' line and the tradition of naming sons after close relations, this lends credence to the probability of our Nathaniel (and us) being descended from Thomas Fitch of Bocking, Essex, England.

Additional support for this connection comes from the unnamed researcher who prepared 31 typed pages of material in search of the "parentage of Nathaniel Fitch, born Feb. 12, 1781." The family historian has a carbon copy of the report and would be glad to send copies to anyone who is interested.

According to his findings, our lineage might be:

Thomas Fitch, born 1612

John Fitch (I), born 1633

Nathaniel Fitch, born 1682

John Fitch (II), born 1707

John Fitch (III), born 1742/43

Nathaniel Fitch (the father), born 1781

Nathaniel Fitch, Jr. (our Nathaniel), born 1801

The researcher could not locate the names of all of the children that this John Fitch (III) had. "It is possible that John Fitch (III), who married Elizabeth Lockwood, married for his second wife a Molly or Mary. We know that John and Elizabeth Fitch had Ruth born 1768 and Esek born 1769 and probably others, and we know John Fitch of Pennsylvania had a son living at home. A search of Pennsylvania land records revealed John Fitch of Luzerne County, Pa. had a wife Mary, and that there was only one John Fitch in Luzerne County (in 1803), so he must have been the father of Nathaniel.

"Proof that John Fitch who married Elizabeth Lockwood is the John Fitch appearing in Pennsylvania has not been found, but circumstantial evidence indicates that he was."

Carolyn notes that John Fitch (the father) married a "second wife named Mary...", so from different sources we may be coming to a common colonial ancestor from whom we are descended: Thomas Fitch.

Spelling Our Family Name

According to Dr. Asa Fitch in 1877, before capital letters came into vogue, two small letters meant the same as a capital letter, so the Fitch name "was anciently written Ffytche, ffytche, ffytch, Fytch and ffitch, and some branches of the family in England still retain one or another of these forms...(the German) Fichte, Ficht and Fecht, we surmise, are descended from this same original (Saxon) stock still remaining in that country."



James Burgess Fitch, eldest son of David Fitch, working as a telephone lineman. (1916)



Otis Fitch, grandson of John and Belle Fitch, holding his prized rabbits. (c. 1912)



Charlotte (L) and Alice (R) Fitch celebrate a birthday with their grandfather, James Burgess Fitch, son of David Fitch (c. 1946)

Recollections

by William D. Fitch

My father, James Burgess Fitch, and my mother, Alice Rakestraw Fitch, both attended school in Auburn, IN. My grandfather, David Nathaniel Fitch, was a veterinarian. When we were visiting Indiana in the summer I learned to drive a car with him on his runs out to the country. He had a large barn for his office in Auburn, which had been rebuilt after Dad's brother, Hurshel, burned it down.

James Burgess worked for the local telephone company in the summer, stringing lines. He planned to go into electric work. He made an orientation visit to Purdue University, and, while he was waiting for his appointment, he walked around the dairy barns. He decided, then and there, to become an animal husbandry major.

Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University) was looking for a herdsman in 1912, and Burgess and his new bride moved to Manhattan, KS. I arrived a year later, and my two sisters, Marjorie and Helen, were also born in Manhattan. His rise in responsibilities was steady, and for many years he was head of the dairy department. In 1936 he moved to Minnesota where he held a similar position at the University of Minnesota. He was in great demand as an adjudicator of cattle at state fairs and also attended an international dairy congress in England in 1928.

Like many other Fitch descendants, J.B. liked to fish, and the move to Minnesota was especially good for that. We had many good times on fishing trips with my granddad, David, and my mother, who also loved to fish. The day always ended with a card game!



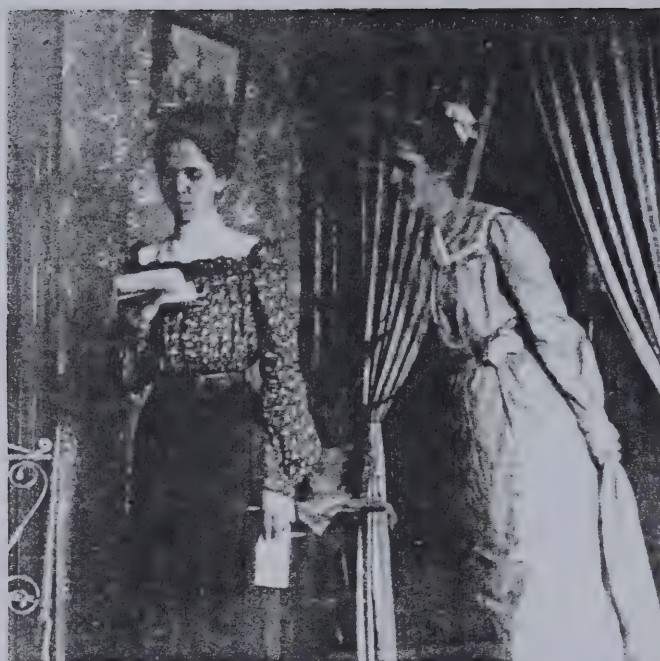
Gladys M. Fitch, daughter of Amos and Nancy Fitch. Titled: "Class of '99" (1899)



L-R: Maurice and Grace Fitch, children of John and Belle Fitch (c. 1903)



Belle and John Fitch, son of Mathias Fitch (date unknown)



L-R: Margie Beers reading a letter while the "ghost" of her sister, Alice, looks over her shoulder. You can see the drapes through Alice' head. We have no information of how or why this photo was taken, although it appears to be a carefully crafted double exposure. (c. 1896)



Otis Fitch, son of John and Belle Fitch, with his cows. (Date unknown)



David Nathaniel Fitch at age 19, the youngest son of Nathaniel and Sarah, at the 1884 Fitch Family Reunion.

David Nathaniel Fitch's Obituary

Auburn IN Newspaper, April 4, 1950

**Veterinary Doctor in Auburn
for 50 Years Passes Away at Sanitarium
at Hicksville, O. -- Funeral Thursday**

Dr. D. N. Fitch, 85, a practicing veterinarian in the Auburn community for 50 years and a former civic and political leader in the city, died at 3 a.m. Tuesday in the Meagley sanitarium at Hicksville, O.

A patient at the sanitarium for the past eight years, his death was attributed to a complication of diseases.

Dr. Fitch was a resident of Auburn for many years at 509 South Main Street. He was a member of the Auburn school board, a former city councilman and had served as Auburn city health officer. He was active in lodges in Auburn where he was a member of the Masonic lodge and the Knights of Pythias. The veterinarian was also a member of the Shrine at Fort Wayne.

Dr. Fitch was a native of Perry Township in Allen County. He was born Feb. 13, 1865, the son of the late Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. He was the youngest of 15 children. His early education was in the rural schools near his home. Later, after graduation from the Perry Township Academy, he attended Methodist College in Fort Wayne. In 1890, he graduated from the Chicago Veterinary College. After graduation, he came to Auburn and engaged in practice.

His first wife, the former Emma Belle Sterling, died Dec. 21, 1929. His second wife, Ella, survives with two sons and a daughter.

Fitch Vital Records

In 1971 Carolyn Davis organized a substantial research effort to locate and record all our Fitch families vital records (i.e. names, births and places of birth, marriages, adoptions, divorces, deaths and places of burial.)

Throughout the 1990's I have tried to keep those records current. Every few years I send out forms to our Fitch families, asking for vital data updates. Alas, I do not hear from everyone, so I believe that our records are not complete at the present time.

Please take a moment right now and send an update on your family to the Newsletter editor. Thank you!

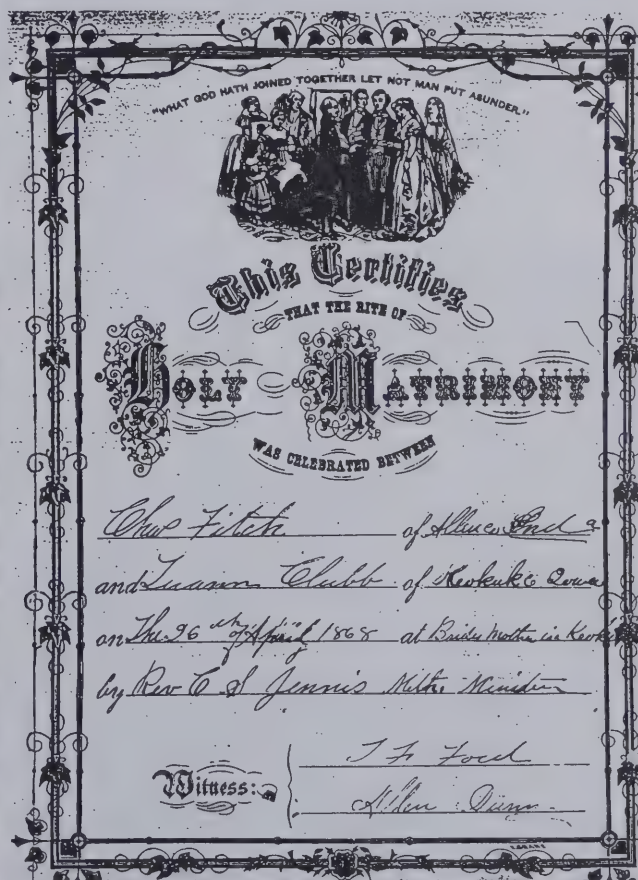
I am transferring all of our vital records, from Nathaniel and Sarah to the present, to a PC software program called the "Family Tree Maker," so that copies can be provided to interested kin in either hard copy or computer diskette. I expect to finish the transfer sometime this summer.



The certificate of marriage of Jennie Fitch and Levi Beers, who were married at the Fitch Homestead in Huntertown, Indiana, on December 24, 1873. Both were teachers at Wabash College when they met, but Levi intended to serve man and God through the Methodist ministry. For almost 20 years, the preacher and his wife served various small congregations in western Pennsylvania.



Irving and Margie Beers Ozanne at their wedding in North Harvey, Illinois, on June 23, 1903. Every photo of Irving taken at the wedding shows him somewhat "wide-eyed." Was he feeling like a deer "caught in the headlights?" We shall never know for sure.



The Holy Matrimony page from the family bible of Charles and Luann Fitch, who were married in Keokuck, Iowa, on April 6, 1868. On other pages of the Bible are recorded family births, deaths, and marriages that followed.



The Strattonville Camp Meeting in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. 1 - Jennie Fitch Beers; 2 - Margie Beers; 3 - Rev. Levi Beers; 4 - Roy Beers; and 5 - Alice Beers. (Summer 1892)

“Vacations and Camp Meetings”

(Excerpts from “Preacher’s Boy,” a family history written by Kenneth Fitch Beers, the oldest son of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers and published in *Jennie’s Family*.)

In my years as a preacher’s boy in Pennsylvania, there were summer vacation trips, the approach of which we measured in days. When we lived near Chautauqua, a month at that intellectual resort gave my parents that contact with others of their education and profession which served to leaven otherwise dull and somewhat vapid years.

Downstate it was to Cherry Run or to Strattonville camp meeting that we trekked for our annual hob-nobbing with other preachers’ families. To our parents these occasions were of great spiritual uplift, sermons by noted religious leaders, lectures, concerts, all brought to ministers and laymen alike glimpses of other worlds. There were special Sunday School days, Missionary days and revival meetings.

Each of these camp grounds, enclosed by a high board fence, was located in pictureque woods and covered many acres. Many substantial homes and many more not so well built or appointed were scattered over each encampment. The central amphitheater in each seated more than 1000 comfortably.

The camp meeting Sabbath Day was one long church service. The grounds were closed on Sunday, the

gates were opened only on errands of mercy or health. Throughout the week, summer school sessions were the rule. Art, botany and nature studies vied with music and other cultural classes.

Despite the fact that the grounds were enclosed and the comings and goings of the youthful members of the summer colony supposed to be under control, there were certain boards in the surrounding fence that could be easily removed. The fences were patrolled, and there were times too when the fence boards that opened outward for a Sabbath excursion into the wood were found nailed shut when the wanderers returned.

Outside the grounds near Cherry Run there was a swimming hole of clear, cool water and another pool nearby overshadowed by a plum tree. There were always large, ripe and juicy plums “on ice” at the bottom of this pool.

Pennsylvania was a “wet” state, and liquor was easily secured. Saturday night was the big night of the week at the camp grounds, with hundreds of young men and women coming from all other districts for this one night at “camp meeting.” Hip flasks were in evidence where the male members of this visiting delegation congregated around the stables and often among the trees at the outskirts of the camp where they assembled for a drinking bout. Drinking could not be controlled, though drunkenness was, the guilty being hustled out of the main gate, and told

to stay out.

Empty whiskey flasks commanded a high price, and the preacher's boy, earliest on the scene Sunday morning, collected the greatest number of bottles. I was not aware that my parents ever learned of my part in this nefarious collecting.

At Cherry Run camp meeting we celebrated the 4th of July with a firecracker battle. It seems difficult to believe that grown, sane men, would be so carried away as to consent to a celebration of this kind. It might have been the influence of General Stuart's lecture that morning on one of the great battles of the Civil War that stirred enthusiasm to so high a pitch.

The Fourth had been ushered in with an anvil salute. Two heavy blacksmith anvils were set, one on the other, a charge of powder in between. The heated end of a 20 foot iron rod was applied to the powder, and with a great "boom" the upper anvil rose into the air. From the noise point of view, nothing ever seemed to equal this anvil salute. This was given at daybreak, later a parade, 4th of July speeches, and in the late afternoon this free-for-all firecracker battle.

Memories of the Civil War were still fresh in the minds of many of the men on the camp grounds. The sound of the exploding firecrackers, the smoke, the smell of burning gun powder, was to them Gettysburg in miniature, and their shouts encouraged the boys to "heroic" deeds.

The two sides lined up equally, facing each other along a main roadway in the grounds, a hundred or more in each group. Behind the "firing line" was the source of supply, bunches of firecrackers of various sizes, handled by the excited men, who, coaching their lines, took equal delight with their boys in creating a battle without bullets.

Blackened and burned, the participants fought on, until their supply of ammunition was exhausted. There was no decision, none had been expected, but the battle of firecrackers was never again repeated, as there were too many casualties.

Two incidents highlighted this day for me. At the height of the parade, just as the Grand Marshall in full uniform rode past the reviewing stand, black smoke was seen rolling up from a distant farm across the creek, outside the camp ground. The Marshall's home was on fire. Putting spurs to his horse, he forgot the parade, and my last glimpse of the Marshall was of a man on a horse, desperately trying to cover a mile of country road in the shortest possible time.

The other incident was the lowering of the flag. At sunset the great flag, which had been strung across the highway between two tall pines, was taken down not in the conventional way but by two shots from a Winchester rifle. Two ropes, two bullets...that was marksmanship!

(There was a presiding elder of the Methodist Church who) lived in a city in which a big event of the Fall season was its county fair. It was impossible, of course, for a minister of the Gospel, especially one bearing such a high position in Methodism as did this elder, to attend such a fair, or to attend that portion of the exhibit in which it seemed his greatest interest lay, the races. So each afternoon during the week, he hid himself to the second story

of his home, and with his binoculars, seated himself comfortably to thus view the sport of kings.

The county fair at Brookville had its attractions. Daily the stagecoach was captured by Indians who were in turn driven off by soldiers. Hot air balloons were sent up from which men in parachutes dropped, and the races were of interest even to a preacher's boy who could see no good reason for not standing by the track and using his eyes.

Then there was the day of the Demorest Medal contest. My mother's ability as an elocutionist was well known. There was no one in those days who could so beautifully and realistically render "Curfew must not ring tonight", "Kentucky Belle", and "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse".

This ability was much appreciated in church work where she had the training of children for all events. Margie and I had the "declaiming" to do, but it was Margie who always won the medals. At this fair, Mother had two entries, just like some of the race horse owners. I had reached the height of my periodic oration, and, as I was calling on the country to rise and smite liquor, I caught sight of the balloon rising cobra-like to its master's music. One little peep, just one, and the condemnation of liquor traffic halted, slowed, stopped. The balloon was just ready to go up, and I went with it.

I was disgraced, had let my mother down. I was through, I did not want any more fair. Let them catch and hang the villain who robbed the stagecoach, I was not interested, I was through. Telling my parents that I was leaving for home, one of us would have to walk anyway, I went slinking out of the grounds and started to walk home. It was a fifteen mile stretch, and the family expected to catch up with me, but they never did. When they arrived home, they found a very tired boy fast asleep.



May Beers washing her husband Kenneth's hair. This intimate photo was apparently a favorite of theirs, as it was discovered very carefully mounted on a piece of cardboard. (c. 1905)



L-R: Nan (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Sarah Fitch, and her son, Amos Fitch. (Date Unknown)



Ida Fitch Mason, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. (Date Unknown, but taken on the same roll as photo left)



Two strip photos of Alice Beers and Margie Beers Ozanne, daughters of Levi and Jennie Fitch Beers. Margie is in all of the photos in the top strip, while Alice is in all the photos in the bottom strip (1906)

Fitch Bits & Pieces

"Helen Chloe Fitch (whose photo appears on page one of the last Newsletter) was always known by me as Grandma Hawver and always very special. I did not realize how much she looked like my mother (her daughter Jane Sterlin Hawver Le Vay)," writes William Le Vay.

Referring to an unpublished photo of John and Belle's house on Coldwater Road, Betty Fitch writes, "One of the stories about that house that I heard was that Belle wanted the wall taken down between the kitchen and dining room, and that John would never do it. So, one day while he was gone, she took an axe to the wall, and by the time he got home, it was gone, and I suppose that he then had to repair the damage. Anyway, she got her wall out!"

Nathaniel Birdsall, great, great grandson of David and Belle Fitch and a student at Yale, wrote a well-researched and humorous article about our relative Major James Fitch, which was published in the "Yale Daily News Magazine". I suspect that Nathaniel Fitch, who valued education so highly, would feel quite pleased about having descendants of his at Yale and, earlier in this century, at Harvard. It is a long way from the rural school houses and the Perry Seminary of 130 years ago.



L-R: RuthAnn and Mary Lou Fitch, daughters of Bessie and Fred W. Fitch and great granddaughters of Perry Fitch, on their farm in Roanoke, Indiana. (c. 1938)

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Winter 2000

1999 Reunion Draws 135 Kin

The 88th Fitch Reunion, which was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on July 16, 17 and 18, was the largest gathering ever of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's descendants.

Fitch relatives came from all over the country, representing all but one of Nathaniel and Sarah's children who had families and accounting for almost 10% of their living relatives.

While it was thought that this might be the last Fitch Reunion, the attendees unanimously agreed that another Reunion should be held in five years, in the summer of 2004 in Fort Wayne.



Jennie Fitch Beers' great granddaughter, Sandra Peterson, welcomes her kin to the 1999 Fitch Family Reunion basket luncheon at River Lodge in Shoaff Park.

**More on the 1999 Fitch
Reunion on pages 3 - 5**



Richard Fitch as he portrayed his great grandfather, Nathaniel Fitch, in a Huntertown's Heritage Days play.

Huntertown's Heritage Days

Nathaniel and Sarah Recreated

The Huntertown Historical Society justifiably claimed success on the many events that they hosted for the first ever Huntertown Heritage Days Festival, held August 5-8, 1999. There was a parade, tours of historic homes, a photo gallery of old photos, antique displays and old-fashioned trolley rides.

Two specific events were Fitch-related. On Sun-
See Heritage Days - Page 6

In This Issue:

1999 Fitch Family Reunion

The Fitch Flags - Yes, there are more than one.

An Alternate Genealogy for Nathaniel Fitch

The Fitches in Huntertown's Heritage Days

Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch's Ancestors

Joining the DAR and Mayflower Society

In Search of Fitch Teachers

And a *most unusual* photo of David and Belle Fitch



Bill Cassell and Betty and Warren Fitch, organizers of the 1999 Fitch Family Reunion, greet out-of-town relatives at the Fort Wayne Courtyard Marriott on Friday evening before the Reunion. This informal gathering in the Auburn Room provided additional opportunities for Fitch kin to get acquainted and to examine the family photo and document albums. On Sunday morning a number of the Fitch cousins had a prolonged breakfast together in the Marriott's dining room.

The 88th Fitch Family Reunion

Family reunions don't just happen. A great deal of planning and personal effort goes into making them happen. We have Betty and Warren Fitch to thank for the Fitch Family Reunions in 1992, 1994 and 1999. Without their tireless efforts to locate and reserve appropriate reunion sites and to gather all the materials needed for the Saturday meetings, we wouldn't have had these reunions. There is simply no substitute for this local, hands-on commitment, and we owe them an enormous "thank you."

The 88th Fitch Family Reunion was held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on July 16, 17 and 18, 1999.

Many of the out-of-town kin stayed at the Marriott Courtyard, where an informal gathering was held in the Auburn Room on Friday, July 16. A couple dozen family members gathered there to chat, read and browse.

Binders of family documents, which had been collected and preserved by Sister M. Alma Louise (Mary Louise Fitch), and all of the family photo albums, which were prepared by Bill Cassell, were laid out for perusal. Some 500 photographs have been accumulated, some of which are over 100 years old. A copy of the Fitch family tree stretched over many yards of wall space.

Late on Saturday morning, Betty and Warren led a small task force of volunteers to River Lodge in Shoaff Park, where they set up the lodge for the traditional basket luncheon. Tables and chairs were moved about to prepare for the expected 100-plus guests. Easels, built by Warren, were set up with family materials, photos, and correspondence from those who could not attend. The binders, photo albums, and the family tree were laid out, and space was allocated for memorabilia that our kin was expected to bring.

Shortly after 11:00 AM our kin began to arrive in numbers that exceeded our expectations. A final head count, and we think that we may have missed a few late arri-

See Reunion - Page 3

Our Very Special Thanks to:

Alice & Jerry Deck	Vicki & Mark Russell
Anne Shirk Nobis	Robert Beers
Sue Ann Fitch	John L. Stratton
Richard & Diane Beers	Helen Silha
Michael & Cynthia Fitch	Ellen & Dennis Adams
Barbara Hulsizer	Mary Belle Brogren
Sara Liggett	Elizabeth Newell
Larry Ozanne	Hazel Hardwick
Betty Richards	Francina Mann
Bob & Fran Ozanne	June Snyder
Joan G. Ewing	Phyllis Brown
Elaine & Vincent Kirbach	Richard & Phyllis Fitch
Bill & Phyllis Fitch	Ann Girard
Gail & Jim Johnston	Charlotte Wuepper
Helen & Robert Florsheim	Jon Oakley Pearson
Annetta & Mikel Ropp	John W. Pearson
Brent D. Fitch	Danford M. McComb
Mary Baird	Marjorie Fitch Shirk
Susan Spangler	
Joan Dove	and
Dena Moudy Horne	
William D. Fitch	Many, many Others

Without their generous financial support of the Newsletter, we would be hard pressed to continue its annual publication and distribution to the 400 families descended from Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch.

Write, call, or email me with your Fitch family news, photos and stories. I'll dupe the photos and return the originals. Keep our address files up-to-date!!

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421

Voice: 781-862-6172
FAX: 781-862-5319
email: cassellcw@aol.com

vals was 135. Soon, the food tables were buried under an avalanche of salads, pasta, chicken, breads, and desserts.

Once again, Carolyn Davis' prediction was proven to be correct: "Don't worry about figuring out who will bring what to the lunch. It always works out just fine. It's a Fitch tradition."

After an invocation by Dave Furlough and lunch, the requisite "all-you-can-eat ice cream" was served, in memory of Mel Mason, Ida Fitch's husband. The family consumed nearly seven gallons of ice cream, with butter pecan being the favorite flavor.

The Reunion meeting was convened by Bill Cassell, who welcomed all the Fitches to the Reunion. A list of kin who had passed away since 1994 was read and amended, and note was made of those who could not attend but who had written to Betty. This correspondence, along with accompanying family photos, was posted.

The family elders were asked to stand and be recognized. Jake Kell, Mathias Fitch's grandson, claimed the honor of being the oldest Fitch descendant in attendance, having been born in 1904.

Betty Fitch, who has been doing some heavy duty genealogical research on the family, noted that copies of the genealogy of the DeLong family were now available. Nathaniel Fitch's wife was Sarah Elizabeth DeLong. She also spoke about the research that she had been doing to try to pin down Nathaniel's ancestors and from which of the early American Fitch brothers we are descended. (More on Betty's research appears elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Bill then recalled how he had been searching for the Fitch Flag, an American flag which had been sewn by Nathaniel and Sarah's daughters during the Civil War and that appeared in a number of old Reunion photos. The last mention of the flag was in the 1950's.

Alice Fitch Deck had recently located a flag among her family's memorabilia that we thought might be the missing flag. Alas, it had 44 original stars, plus one added later, which dated its origin to the 1890's. In any case, this family flag was laid out for all to see, along with another Fitch flag that was curiously one-sided (probably as a wall hanging).

The future of the Fitch Reunions was discussed, and it was decided that we would meet again in five years. Bill said that there would be at least one more Fitch Newsletter but that he was running out of Fitch stories and old photos. He mentioned that it was probably time to focus on the generations after Nathaniel's children, noting Dick Houser's stories about his parents as an example of what would be appreciated.

Another problem with the newsletter was keeping up with the vital statistics and address changes. It was suggested that each branch of Nathaniel's family (e.g. Perry, Mathias) select an individual to chase down births, marriages, etc. and new addresses. These representatives could also help in generating stories and collecting family photos.

Bill also noted that financing the newsletters was

becoming a problem, as the Fitch Fund would be in a deficit position after the next newsletter. The hat was passed for contributions, as it has been at all preceding Reunions, and our kin solved the financial problem for the near future. (See the Treasurer's Report)

The future of the family records, photos and artifacts that are in Bill's possession were discussed. While he hopes to have picked up some longevity genes similar to Jake Kell's, he is hoping to hear from some younger members of the family who are interested in our family's history, so that the records, etc. can be passed along at some point in the future.

Bill has rephotographed almost all of the family photos that he has or has been loaned on black and white film. These negatives are the most stable graphic media known, so our photographic history is very secure. He is very interested in getting copies of these photographs into the hands of other interested Fitches.

Family members then identified where they had come from. Many, of course, came from the Fort Wayne area. Others came from more distant locales, including California, Illinois, Kansas, Washington, Minnesota, Michigan, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Florida, Tennessee, Oregon, and Massachusetts.

The descendants of Nathaniel's children stood by family and were recognized with warm applause. All but Sarah Elizabeth Stratton's family was represented. Bill indicated that a Fitch descendant is defined as anyone who joins the family via birth, marriage or adoption. As each family was introduced, Bill shared a bit of each progenitor's background.

Perry was the oldest, born in 1842. He was the first to be married at the Fitch Homestead and ran the family's saw and carding mills for many years.

Mathias is easily picked out in old photos, as he had a wandering eye, which made him look cross-eyed. Even so, he was known as an excellent marksman.

Nathaniel sent Jennie to Hillsdale College, from which she graduated in 1870. He expected her to return to the Homestead and teach the township's children. Jennie did so for one summer and then lit out for the big city of Wabash, where she met her husband.

Charles moved to Minnesota, where he lived the remainder of his life. His son, Charles Oakley Fitch, wrote a fascinating autobiography, of which we have a copy.

Amos was a farmer in DeKalb County, where he built a beautiful brick farmhouse that was the site of a couple of Fitch Reunions and is still occupied by his descendants.

Fitelia was a twin. She can be recognized in old photos by her predisposition to show only the left side of her face. (See photo on page 4)

Francelia or Frank was the other twin. They just don't make good names like that any more, do they? Was any descendant named "Francelia"? Apparently, Francina Fitch, the great granddaughter of David Nathaniel Fitch was named after Francelia.

Harvey attended many Reunions, and you can

See Reunion - Page 4

actually watch him age in the many photos taken at the Reunions.

Sarah Elizabeth was not represented at the Reunion by any descendants, but "Sarah" and even "Sarah Elizabeth" are very common family names.

Allen had no children, but he was involved with Charles in the stockyards of South St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ida also had no children. Ida married Mel Mason, who is remembered at Reunions for two things: First, he often contributed the ice cream, even during the Depression. Uncle Mel was a dentist and had some money, even in hard times, since people had to get their teeth fixed. Second, as he aged, he was known to wander off at Reunions, so a teenager was assigned to keep track of him.

Emma married James Hartzell but did not have any children.

David Nathaniel was the youngest child of Nathaniel and Sarah. What did they call the unexpected child born late in a marriage...a love child, oops, a surprise? Well, David was a surprise. Sarah was 46 and had been having children since 1842, when she learned that she was pregnant with David in 1864. Sarah probably holds the family record for being pregnant: 126 months in 24 years.

At a Reunion years later one of her older daughters recalled that Sarah, upon learning of her 14th pregnancy with David (there were the twins), went out into the backyard, swung on the clothesline, and uttered, "I'm not sure that I can go through this again." But she did.

And we are grateful that she did, for David's family has been very active in supporting our Reunions right up to the present. David went to the University of Chicago and became both a veterinarian and a dentist.

Helen Silha, David's granddaughter, mentioned that Nathaniel and his brother Giles were both blacksmiths back in Pennsylvania. As there was not enough work for both of them, it is said that they flipped a coin to see who would go west. We're not sure who won the toss, but it was Nathaniel who headed west to Indiana.

Ann Girard, Charles Fitch's great granddaughter and a recently retired teacher, had recently found her grandmother's teaching certificate, and she wondered how many other teachers there were in the family. Nathaniel had been committed to education and had been instrumental in setting up the Perry Center Seminary before the Civil War.

A question was asked about the Fitch connection to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Bill knew that his mother had been a member of the DAR but wasn't sure that there was adequate documentation in our files for membership today.

Maggie Vegeler inquired about the status of the Fitch Homestead, which is now owned by Irving Gravel Company. Others expressed interest in finding a way to have the Homestead preserved and returned to Fitch family ownership. The big question is "How?"

The meeting was adjourned, and the descendant families gathered outside for group photographs.



Trish Snyder, a great, great granddaughter of Francelia Fitch Fair operates Sarah DeLong Fitch's treadle sewing machine at the Reunion.



Trish's great, great grandmother, Francelia Fitch Fair (standing) with her twin Fitelia Fitch Fair.



Fitch Flag

We've been looking for the Fitch flag that was sewed by Nathaniel's daughters during the Civil War for years (upper left photo).

Alice Fitch Deck thought that she might have found it when she discovered the flag that is being displayed at the Reunion (middle left photo).

Alas, it was a later Fitch flag which, based on its stars, was made between 1890 and 1896. A 45th star was stitched on the flag when Utah was admitted to the Union in 1896. A Civil War flag would have had 34, 35 or 36 stars. A one-sided flag was also displayed at the Reunion.

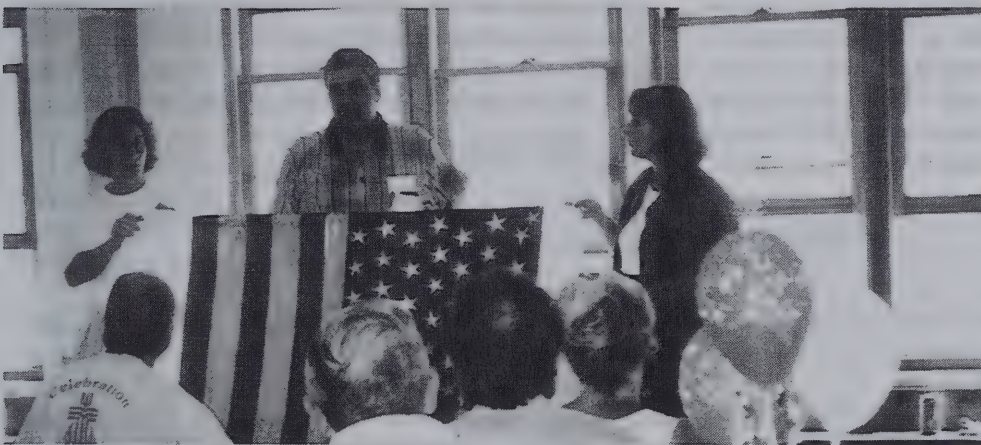
Phyllis Brown says that she saw the old Fitch flag when she was about 10 years old at reunions that were held in an old church building that her grandfather Harvey Fitch owned. Hanging it was very difficult, as it was so big (8' by 12'?) and was falling apart even then. She believes that it was made of wool.

According to Phyllis, in the 1930's Nina Fitch Emrick, Harvey's daughter, gave the flag to Helen Fitch Hawver, who offered it to the Sweeney Homestead Museum. The Museum stated that it was too large and had deteriorated too much for them to handle.

While the flag was mentioned in Reunion minutes in the 1950's, given its fragile state more than 60 years ago, it is almost certain that the old Fitch flag is no more.

Having said that, if you happen upon a very old, very large, very sad American flag among your family memorabilia, let me know.

Fitch kin examine albums of old Fitch photos at the Reunion. (lower left photo)



day afternoon a Nathaniel Fitch "playlet" was performed. Written by Jennie McComb, a neighbor of Rick and Elaine Fitch, the 20-minute play faithfully recreated a number of events from Nathaniel and Sarah's lives, including how they met, which is a favorite Fitch story.

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home in Perry Township. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt for them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife, and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina Fair, Sarah's married sister, replied that her sister wasn't married and called Sarah to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Betty and Warren Fitch made a video of the performance, in which Richard Fitch played the role of Nathaniel. The videotape is now part of our family documents.

The other Fitch connection at Heritage Days was the Historic Homes "2000" Millennium Calendar that was produced and sold by the Huntertown Historical Society. Each month was illustrated with a painting of a historic Huntertown home. Margaret Cromwell painted a watercolor of the Fitch Homestead for July 2000. The original paintings were auctioned off, with one of Jake Kell's grandsons purchasing the Fitch Homestead original.



L-R (front) Stella Gloyd, Gladys Fitch and Margie Beers; (2nd) Alice and Emma Fitch Hartzell; (rear) Allen Hartzell and an unidentified woman. (c. late 1890's)

Fitch Family Treasurer's Report

One of the Fitch "myths" that recurs in our family stories is that when there is a family need, someone always, sometimes mysteriously, steps forward. I had projected that the Fitch Fund would be in the red after the post-Reunion Newsletter had been printed and mailed, and I said so at the Reunion. Thanks to the generosity of many Fitch "someones", including many anonymous donors at the Reunion, we have the funds to continue collecting and sharing our family history.

Jennie Fitch Beers' oldest son Kenneth tells one such story: "There were many times when there was not even a five cent piece in our house. One morning Father (a Methodist minister in Western Pennsylvania) had made a specific plea for help from our Heavenly Father, for food for his family. Roy (Kenneth's brother) and I were repairing a wooden sidewalk the following morning. The boards we were cutting were weather-warped oak, hard as iron.

"Down this uneven and irregular sample of our carpentering staggered the town drunkard with a sack of flour on his shoulder. He was bringing it to the parsonage. Surely the Lord uses strange vehicles for answering some prayers. Never before and perhaps never again did the man carrying that answer to prayer ever tread this walk."

Beginning Balance 2/18/98	\$1,181.62
---------------------------	------------

Income Since 2/18/99

Contributions from Fitch kin

Prior to the Reunion	\$1,126.00
Reunion Fees & Pass-the-Hat	\$1,796.00
Other Reunion Gifts	\$ 435.00

Available Funds	\$4,538.62
-----------------	------------

Expenses

Spring 1998 Newsletter	\$ 712.72
Reunion Postcards	\$ 273.58
Reunion Invitations	\$ 191.85

Reunion Expenses

Photography Supplies & Prints	\$ 79.89
River Lodge Reservation Fee	\$ 166.00
Name Tags, Forms, etc.	\$ 22.68
Binders, Sheet Protectors	\$ 105.76
Shipping Documents/Albums	\$ 102.59
Luncheon Materials & Food	\$ 237.25

Post-Reunion Expenses

Historic Homes Calendars	\$ 30.00
Post-Reunion Postcard	\$ 47.68
Photo Supplies & Prints	\$ 76.45

Total Expenses	\$2,046.45
----------------	------------

Ending Balance 2/5/00	\$2,492.17
-----------------------	------------

Projected Expenses

Winter 2000 Newsletter	\$1,000.00
Projected Balance after this Newsletter	\$1,492.17

Nathaniel's Ancestors

by Betty Fitch

I am proposing an alternate genealogy for the Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch family of Allen County, Indiana. The genealogy published in our Fitch Family History Book in 1972 does not appear to mesh with more recent research on the American Fitches, and another Fitch line appears to be much more probable for our Nathaniel.

The genealogy in our Fitch Family History Book goes as follows:

Rev. James Fitch (1622-1702) & Priscilla Mason
Capt. John Fitch (1667-1743) & Elizabeth Waterman
Capt. John Fitch II (1705-1760) & Alice Fitch
John Fitch III (1732-1755) & Mercy Lathrop
John Fitch IV (1756- 1816) & 2 unnamed wives
Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. (1782-1839) & Sarah Keeler
Nathaniel Fitch (1806-1877) & Sarah DeLong

In our 1972 genealogy, it is stated that there was no authentic record of John Fitch's wife's name or of his marriage and that tradition said that he had married twice. His second wife was known only as Mary. He assigned his title to a grant of land to his sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, who were half-brothers. The assignment is on file at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, PA, and signed with a mark, as he could not write.

This grant had been given to Connecticut settlers and stockholders of the Connecticut Company after they were evicted from their original lands in Wyoming Valley after the Pennamite Wars. By an act of the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1799, known as the Pennamite Act, an equal amount of land north of the Lackawanna River was granted to the disposed holders. This land was not nearly so good, and it was outside the hard coal belt.

John Fitch IV was so put out that he refused to ever live on the land given to him. Giving it to his two sons, Gideon and Nathaniel, he went back to Connecticut, where he died in 1815 in Ridgefield, CT.

Since our book was published, John Townsend Fitch from the Rev. James Fitch family has written several well-researched and comprehensive books about the Fitch family. His third book, *The First Five Generations*, was about the five generations after Rev. James Fitch. In this book he carries down the "Johns" from whom Nathaniel is supposedly descended.

He provides the following, well-documented information about the John Fitch IV who was the great, great grandson of Rev. James Fitch. John Fitch IV was born in Canterbury, Windham County, CT, on January 11, 1756. He resided and died in Windham on June 22, 1807, "in the 52nd year of his age." On February 24, 1780, he married Clarissa Wales, who was born on June 22, 1760, and died in Windham on October 15, 1826, "in the 67th year of her age." After John died, Clarissa married Waterman Clift in

1811. Both John and Clarissa are buried in Windham Main Cemetery.

John Fitch IV was a tavern keeper, as his father had been, and a photo of an entry in the record book, dated 1798, shows that he was in the tavern business in Windham at that time. John and Clarissa had four children: James, Col. John, Jr., Lucius and Clarissa.

There are a number of discrepancies between our 1972 description of John Fitch IV and that of John Townsend Fitch. The dates of death do not match. Our "John" had two wives who were unnamed, while Rev. James Fitch's descendant's only wife is well-documented. The latter's children are similarly well-documented and do not include either Gideon or Nathaniel.

Furthermore, we know that our "John" was listed on the 1790 and 1810 censuses in Pennsylvania, while Rev. James Fitch's descendant was operating a tavern in Connecticut at this time. Moreover, the latter John died in 1807, so he could not have been listed on a census in 1810.

Finally, Gideon Fitch, Nathaniel Sr.'s brother was born in 1771, as evidenced by his gravestone in Roberts Cemetery. If Rev. James Fitch's great, great grandson had been Gideon's father, John Fitch IV would have been only 15 years old at Gideon's birth, which is highly unlikely.

Clearly, we are not descended from Rev. James Fitch through his great, great grandson, John Fitch IV. After much study and correspondence with other Fitch family members, there is an alternative genealogy to put forth. This genealogy has a few "rough" places, and we are still working on them. However, the most probable line for our Nathaniel is the line of descent from Thomas Fitch, brother of Rev. James Fitch.

This alternate genealogy looks like this:

Thomas Fitch (1612-1704) & Anne Stacie
John Fitch (1633- ?) & Rebecca Lindall
Nathaniel Fitch (1682-1743) & Elizabeth ?
John Fitch II (c. 1710-1748) & Elizabeth Beers
John Fitch III (c. 1740-after 1810) & Elizabeth Lockwood
& Mary ?
Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. (1782-1839) & Sarah Keeler
Nathaniel Fitch (1806-1877) & Sarah DeLong

Thomas Fitch, Sr., father of Rev. James Fitch, Thomas Fitch, Joseph Fitch and Samuel Fitch, died in England in 1632, as stated in our present genealogy. Rev. James came to America in 1638, and the other brothers followed. They first show up in the records about 1650, and it is possible that they came about that time. Another brother, Nathaniel, died in England in 1648, and they may have come after his death, bringing their mother with them.

Thomas Fitch married Anne Stacie in England. He stated that the Civil War in England at that time cost him much of his fortune and that it took about all he had to get his family over to America. They were of Puritan stock.

His sons, Thomas Fitch, Jr., and John Fitch, and his daughters lived with him in Norwalk, of which he was a founder. John was born in 1633 in Bocking, England. He

married Rebecca Lindall and had two sons, John who was born in 1677 and Nathaniel who was born in 1682.

Nathaniel Fitch had three wives, the first of whom was the mother of his children. At this time we believe her name to be Elizabeth, but we have no maiden name. Her name has been found on a land transfer on which can be found both their signatures. Their children were John II, Lindall, Elizabeth, Abigail and Mary.

John Fitch II was apparently born in the 1710-1716 era. He married Elizabeth Beers, and they had four children, according to Elizabeth's will and various land records. The children were Nathaniel, who died in 1766, **John**, Elizabeth, who married David King, and Susannah.

It is this **John** Fitch III, born about 1740 and the great, great grandson of Thomas Fitch, who was most probably the father of Gideon and Nathaniel Fitch, Sr., and the grandfather of our Nathaniel Fitch. John Fitch III may have married Elizabeth Lockwood in 1766.

There are several land transactions and some wills to determine that this family is correct and that the grandmother of John Fitch III's children is Elizabeth (Beers) Fitch Ellis. (After John's death, she married Henry Ellis.) We have a copy of her actual handwritten will of 1777. In it she names the children of John Fitch III as: John Fitch, Jr., Gideon Fitch and Susannah Fitch. The children of her daughter, Elizabeth Fitch King, are given as Nathaniel Fitch King, Elizabeth King and Sarah King. She also states that John Fitch is her son and the father of the Fitch children mentioned in her will.

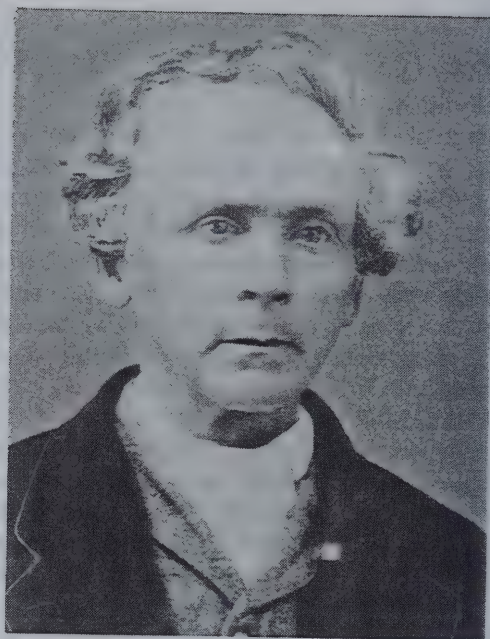
As Elizabeth's will was written in 1777, before Nathaniel Fitch, Sr., was born in 1782, Nathaniel's name does not appear in the will. John Fitch III's first wife, Elizabeth (Lockwood) Fitch died before 1783, as she is listed as deceased in her father's (John Lockwood) will.

Most of the neighbors and friends of the John Fitch III's family in Pennsylvania were from the Norwalk, CT, area. We find the family names fit well. The name Gideon could have come from the Lockwood family, as Elizabeth Lockwood had a brother named Gideon. Susannah comes down through both the Fitch and Beers lines.

John Fitch III, whose children were John, Jr., Gideon and Susannah, sold out his homestead in Fairfield, Norwalk, CT, about 1786, and we hear no more about him in the land records there. Our "John Fitch" shows up in the 1790 census of Pennsylvania, and the history of Wyoming County, PA, states that he settled there in 1788 with David Morehouse. David King is also there in the 1800 census, and David's name is listed with John's in an early list of Wyoming County settlers.

There are still a couple of possibilities of other genealogies, but so far none of them have been traced to our Pennsylvania John Fitch. We continue to work on all possibilities, but we have concluded at this time that the link to Rev. James Fitch is incorrect.

Being part of the Thomas Fitch family isn't too bad. Thomas was a founder of Norwalk, CT, and the great grandfather of Thomas Fitch IV, who was governor of the Colony of Connecticut from 1754 to 1766.



"Our" Nathaniel Fitch, who was born in 1806 and married Sarah DeLong in 1840. Nathaniel and Sarah had 15 children, 10 of whom produced descendants that still gather for family reunions in Fort Wayne, IN.

Our Fitches and the DAR

Over the years a few descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch have inquired about our family's connections to individuals who had served in the Revolutionary Army, with thoughts of joining the Daughters of the American Revolution.

According to the 1972 Fitch Family History Book, our connection to the Revolution is Sarah Keeler, who married Nathaniel Fitch, Sr. "Sarah was born in Ridgefield, CT, on June 26, 1785. She was the daughter of Paul Keeler, Jr. who was born on April 9, 1756 and Sarah Burt Cornwall. Her parents were married in Ridgefield, CT, on February 7, 1775. Paul Keeler, Jr. was a trumpeter in the Revolutionary Army in Sheldon's Light Horse Brigade from the state of Connecticut."

At the 1999 Reunion Pamela Zorger passed along a copy of a 1995 letter from the DAR's head genealogist that read, in part, "I am happy that you found your great-aunt's number and a copy of her application paper. We do not have Paul Keeler, Jr. as a proven ancestor, and I do not find him in *Connecticut Men in the Revolution*." The genealogist proceeds to list three Nathaniel Fitch's who are listed in *Connecticut Men*, but none of them appear to be in our branch of the Fitch family.

Given that Paul Keeler, Jr.'s affiliation to a specific Revolutionary unit is apparently known, this is troublesome information. In the past a number of Nathaniel's descendants were DAR members, but it may be that more stringent documentation is now required for membership.

If you have any information on our family's DAR connection, please contact Bill Cassell.

Nathaniel Fitch's Wife

Sarah DeLong's Family

Up until last year, we knew relatively little about the DeLong family from which Sarah, Nathaniel Fitch's wife, was descended. Stories told at reunions by Sarah's children indicated that Sarah had been born and raised near Dayton, OH. Her father was supposedly from Germany and, while educated, did not speak English. As a child, Sarah received no formal schooling due to the German attitude about educating women. It was only later in life that she learned to read and write a little.



Sarah DeLong Fitch, wife of Nathaniel Fitch and daughter of George and Elizabeth Statler DeLong of Bethel Township, Miami County, Ohio.

We knew that she had a sister, Christina DeLong, who had married a Fair and lived in DeKalb County, IN, not too distant from Nathaniel Fitch's log hut. It was at Christina Fair's home that Sarah and Nathaniel met in 1840. Sarah's children recalled that her father was "unkind" to her, but there are no details. When a neighbor family was heading west, Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and joined them. She went with them to Christina's place in Indiana. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn, IN, where she worked in a tavern. Sarah then worked for the Vandolah family, where she cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and a baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes...all for 50 cents a week.

The only other DeLong that is mentioned in Fitch family stories is her sister, Henrietta DeLong Young, who sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons, when Sarah's last child was born. That child, David Nathaniel Fitch, was named after Henrietta's husband, David Young.

Thanks to Betty Fitch's research, we now have



David and Henrietta DeLong Young, Sarah DeLong Fitch's sister. Sarah's youngest son, David Nathaniel Fitch was named after David Young.

more information on the DeLong family.

Sarah's great grandfather was Abraham DeLong, who was born between 1710 and 1711, in Germany or in New York. Perhaps around 1730 he married Catherine ____ and settled in Northampton County (now Lehigh County), PA. Abraham was apparently a farmer. He had at least 8 children and died there about 1756. His wife subsequently married Nicholaus Fischer and had 6 more children.

Abraham's second child, Mathias or Matthew, was born around 1735-37 in Northampton County, PA. A carpenter, he married Maria Margareta ____ (possibly Falck) and lived in Northampton County, PA, where he served in the 6th Company, Northampton County Militia in the 1780's. He had 5 children and died in 1785.

Mathias' fourth child, Johann George, who was called George, was born around 1772. His whereabouts was unknown until 1805 when he took land at the Cincinnati Land office as George DeLong, although he may have been with his brother Johann Joseph in Botetourt County, VA. He apparently did not move to Ohio at that time.

Around 1806 George married Elizabeth Statler of Virginia, and land records indicate that he was in Bethel Township, Miami County, OH by 1813. He and Elizabeth had 14 children, including our Sarah Elizabeth DeLong. A farmer, he died in 1836 and is buried in the Bethel German Reformed Church Cemetery in Bethel Township, Miami County, OH.

See DeLongs - Page 10

George DeLong's wife Elizabeth (he may have had an earlier wife also) is said to have been the daughter of George Statler, who fought in the War of 1812, but so far this is untraceable. Elizabeth lived to be 84 and died in Tippicanoe, OH, in 1872. Her tombstone reads:

*Her toils are over, the work is done
and she is fully blest.*

*She fought the fight, the victory won
and entered into rest.*

Sarah and Nathaniel Fitch inherited some of George's land when Elizabeth died, which was sold in 1872 and 1874. This may be the inheritance that Sarah used to buy a buggy, as recounted in family stories.

Betty has created a family tree that details Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch's brothers and sisters, as well as their descendants. Perhaps the most interesting fact is that our Sarah was very likely a twin! Her sister died on February 29, 1897, and her gravestone states that she died at age 78, years, 8 months, 26 days. If so, that would make her birthdate (May 25, 1818) very close to Sarah's birthdate (May 29, 1818). One date may be just a few days off.

Sarah's brothers and sisters were:

George DeLong, Jr. (1807-1843) & Mary Ann Rudy
William DeLong (1840-1886) & Elizabeth Ann Martin
Christina DeLong (1816- ?) & Abraham Fair
Ellen DeLong (1818-1897) & John Surface
Sarah Elizabeth DeLong (1818-1908) & Nathaniel Fitch
Son of DeLong (1819 - ?)
Washington DeLong (1823-1877) & Mary Catherine Wimer
David DeLong (1824-1850) & Martha Martin
Eliza DeLong (1825-1912) & John Ross
Abraham DeLong (1827-1872)
Henrietta DeLong (1830- ?) & David D. Young
Isaac DeLong (1832-1863/64) & Martha Sullivan
Jefferson DeLong (1835-1894)
Edward DeLong (1836-1908)

There is a lot of speculation about George DeLong, Jr. At first we thought that he was the one who came to Indiana, but it looks like that was George Washington DeLong. George Jr.'s will was probated in 1843 and must have been written before his father's death in 1836. His heirs were his father, mother and brothers William, Washington, David and Abraham. The sisters and other brothers were omitted. The family story about Sarah having some trouble with her brother may tie into this omission.

Sarah's sister, Christina DeLong Fair, was a pioneer in Dekalb County, IN, with her husband, Abraham Fair, arriving about 1835-36. Christina must have remarried after Abraham died, as her name was listed as Christina Thayer of Auburn, IN in her mother's will in 1872.

The History of DeKalb County by Martin tells of the pioneers of Butler County, which included Abraham Fair. "The year 1835 witnessed their permanent settlement, although they came in the fall previous with a wagon and

two spans of horses and built their cabins. They had to cut their own road from Squire Caswell's in Allen County, beyond Hometown, five miles to the place where they settled, and also a considerable part of the way from Fort Wayne, as the track was too narrow and crooked for a four horse team.

"Abraham Fair, one of the eight first settlers who came in October, 1834, is our informant. 'Our plan was to come out, build cabins, make a little beginning and then return to our old homes in Montgomery County, Ohio (the Fairs may well have been from Montgomery County, but George DeLong, was from Miami County, which is just across the two county lines) to winter and bring on the family in the spring. We brought in provisions enough to last until our return, excepting meat, calculating to kill deer enough to supply that. In this, however, we were mistaken. We found deer quite scarce in those woods that fall. One day Andrew Surface found a hollow tree filled with honey, into which a bear had gnawed a hole and helped himself to as much as he wanted. On cutting the tree we found what was left of the Bruins's dinner, six gallons of honey. The first fair day after this, we found two bee trees, cut them and took the honey. We eight had all the honey we wanted for 20 days (and had little to eat except bread and honey) and on returning to Ohio, we had 21 gallons of strained honey left.

'I was 22 years of age when I moved into the township 24 years ago. I weighed 160 pounds, and my wife, 140. Now (1859) I weigh 210 and my wife 200! We have had 11 children born in this township and 9 are still living. In 24 years I have not lost as many hours by sickness. I am now six feet four and a half inches high, and there never has been cleared land enough in DeKalb County to throw me down on. I still live on the farm where I first settled and have never moved but once, from one part of my farm to another.'"

The marriage date of Ellen DeLong and John Surface is uncertain, but their first child Henrietta appears to have been born about 1842. Since John's story is Ellen's story, it merits telling, as written in the DeKalb County, IN History:

"The story of John Surfus should receive more detailed narration than can be accorded here, but however, briefly, it must be given, for in counting over the old pioneers it might be easy to overlook some who did not come with a flourish of axes, let us say, or at least with a fair assortment of worldly implements, education, money, and similar plenishings, with which to subdue the wilds and make themselves fairly comfortable while they did this.

"John Surfus did not come with any of these. Hard circumstances landed him in Perry Township, unlettered, penniless, with the care of what was left of his family upon his hands, at the age of 21. The sum of the Surfus worldly goods when they arrived at the wilderness home, may be briefly stated: a yoke of cattle, a table, a chest, set of wooden chairs and an oven. Their first bed was made by boring holes in the log wall of the cabin and setting hewn poles which were then wrapped in elm bark for a mattress.

See DeLongs - Page 11

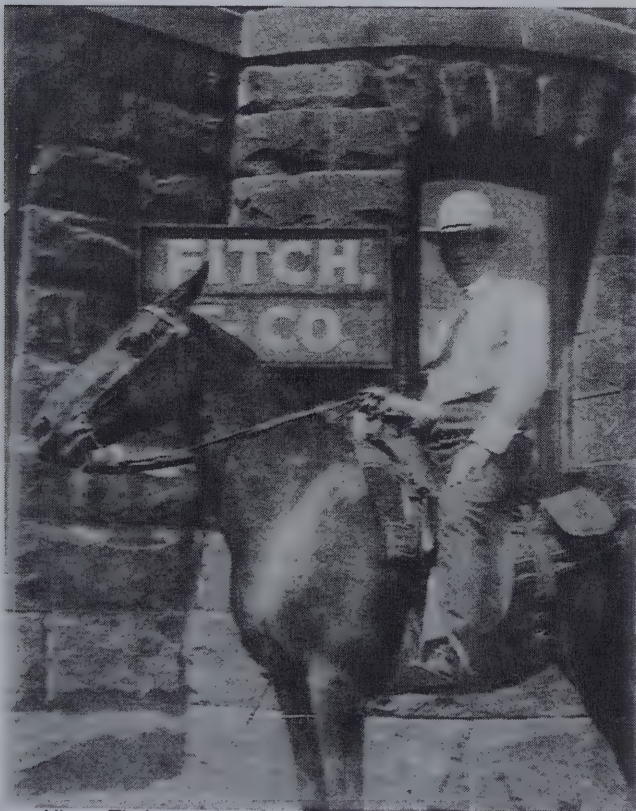
"After nine years of struggle, Mr. Surfus married Ellen DeLong, a brave and faithful woman, who assisted her husband without flagging, and added twelve children, ten of whom survived them to the population of Perry.

"To the careless ear the recital of these struggles may sound dull but to a man who began life with empty hands, what romance there must be in the review of 60 years of toil, as he sits at ease and looks back, across a thousand smiling acres of farmlands, to the rude little cabin with its bed of hickory poles, while in the foreground the smoke of his children's hearthfires feather the landscape like incense. Let posterity doff its hat to the John Surfuses of Pioneer History." To which Betty adds, "And I might add to the wives of such pioneers!!"

Henrietta DeLong and her husband David Young were members of the Lutheran Church. When they were first married, they located in Bethel Township on 35 acres that David bought. Then they lived on her mother's farm in Ohio for six years, after which they moved to Tippicanoe, OH where they were in the grocery business. Finally, they settled on 205 acres of good land.

David Young was 30 years old when he married Henrietta, and they had only four children, not the dozen that most of her sisters had.

Isaac DeLong and his wife Martha were living in Bethel Township in 1860. He died in 1863-1864 and was probably killed in the Civil War. His estate papers list the expense of returning his body from Washington. Their only child, Mary L., who was eight at the time, died childless in 1903.



Allen Fitch at the Stockyard Exchange Building in South St. Paul, MN. (Date Unknown)

- - Now Available - -
The DeLong Genealogy & History

Betty Fitch has a much more detailed DeLong genealogy available for anyone who is interested. Send \$15 to Betty to cover the cost of copying and mailing.

Mrs. Betty Fitch
 14615 Auburn Road
 Fort Wayne, IN 46845



Harvey Fitch, Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's ninth child, was born in 1853 and died in 1948. (Date Unknown)



Etta Parker Fitch, Harvey's wife was born in 1859 and died in 1942. She and Harvey had five children.



Four Fitch Generations: L-R: Elizabeth Bowling Winkler, Susan Shirk Bowling, Marjorie Fitch Shirk and Lauren Winkler. Marjorie, a granddaughter of Charles Fitch, is 94 years old.

We're Looking for New and Old Family Photos

Have you got any photos of 3 or more generations of Fitch descendants? Could you send copies to the Newsletter Editor? Thanks.



L-R: Back: Emma (Mrs. Allen) Fitch, May Fitch Harvey, Francelia Fitch Fair, Luann (Mrs. Charles) Fitch and Mabel Fitch Durkee; Front: Charles Fitch, unidentified man and child, Allen Fitch and John Durkee. (Date Unknown)



L-R: The sons of Charles Fitch: Harry, Giles and Charles Oakley Fitch. (Date Unknown)



By far, the oddest family photo so far. David Nathaniel Fitch is in the back row, wearing dungarees and a bandanna. His wife, Belle Fitch, is also in the back row, wearing a white blouse and no hat. Taken around 1900 in Auburn, IN, the photo could be of a costume party or the cast of a play. Note the tags that most of them are wearing. The "bald wigs with hair locks" of two men are rather unusual, as is the considerable paunch of the derby-sausage-wearing gentleman at the right. Any ideas what was going on?



One of the teachers in our family was Genevieve Fitch, Charles Oakley Fitch's wife, shown here with her class of 32 children. (Date Unknown)



Grace Fitch, Mathias Fitch's daughter, is the adult standing at the left in this school photo, which leads us to believe that she was a teacher. Can anyone confirm this guess? (Date Unknown)

A Call for Fitch Teachers

Nathaniel Fitch believed that children should be taught to read, write and calculate. In 1856, along with Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart, Nathaniel founded the Perry Center Seminary, a wood frame school with two large classrooms on the first floor and six or seven rooms on the second floor where a teacher and some of the boys lived during the week. They hired a teacher to provide lessons from the late fall to the early spring. The "Academy," as it was known, closed during the Civil War, when the teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army.

Just after the Civil War, Nathaniel sent his oldest daughter, Jennie, to Hillsdale College in Michigan, where she was trained to be a teacher. Nathaniel was quite disappointed when Jennie decided to teach in elsewhere upon her graduation, as his plan had been to have Jennie teach in Perry Township. While teaching in Wabash, Indiana, Jennie met and married Levi Beers, who was also a teacher at that time.

Two of Jennie's children, Bertha and Alice Beers, became teachers, as did two of her grandsons, Bob Beers and Bob Ozanne, three of her great grandchildren, Sue Spangler, Sandra Peterson, and Bill Cassell, and one of her great, great granddaughters, Margie Sherick.

In Charles Fitch's family his daughter-in-law, Genevieve Fitch, and his great granddaughter, Ann Girard, were teachers. From the photo at the left, it appears that Grace Fitch, Mathias Fitch's daughter was a teacher also.

Were there other teachers among Nathaniel's descendants? If you know of any other teachers in the family, please call, e-mail or write to Bill Cassell.

Old-fashioned Classroom Management

Alice Beers, Jennie's youngest daughter, began teaching in Colorado around 1910. One of her early assignments was teaching in a rural one room school where the previous teachers had been run off by a number of large, unruly teenaged boys.

Knowing that they expected to run her off too, when Alice showed up the first day of school in her buggy, she took her long buggy whip into the classroom and leaned it again the chalkboard behind her desk. Without saying a word about her intentions, she intimidated the ruffians and never had to touch the whip.



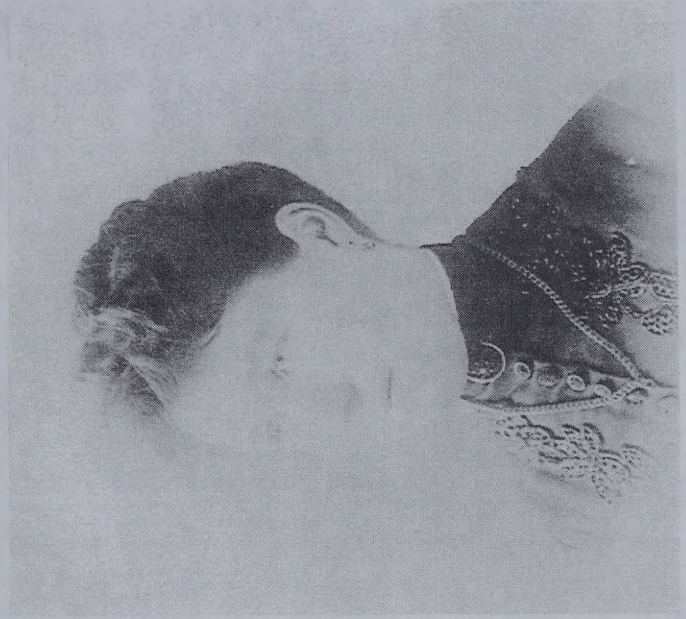
The descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch at the 1999 Fitch Family Reunion at River Lodge in Shoaff Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



David Nathaniel Fitch's family that attended the 1999 Reunion but was not in the above photo. L-R: Helen Silha, David Reismann, Sarah Davis and Hannah Davis, Alice Deck, John Wuepper, Leah Davis, Jerry Deck, Steve Silha and Charlotte Wuepper.



David Nathaniel Fitch, Nathaniel's youngest son.



Emma Belle Stirlen Fitch, David Fitch's wife.



William Seymour Fitch, Perry Fitch's oldest son who lived past infancy. Born in 1865, William had four children, Victor, Fred, Forrest and Hillis, and a total of 153 descendants. (1892)

-- ATTENTION -- FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES

At the 1999 Reunion Bill Cassell asked for a volunteer from each family (e.g. Perry's, Mathias', Jennie's) to assist him in keeping track of our family's vital records of births, marriages, deaths, divorces, and mailing addresses. Each representative would be responsible for keeping track of their branch of the Fitch family and forwarding that information to Bill, who keeps everything on a computer program called Family Tree Maker.

A couple of representatives contacted Bill, but he can't find their names among his materials. Would each representative kindly drop him a note or an email, indicating their willingness to help? Thanks. For his address, phone, etc., see page 2.



Emma Belle Stirlen in a formal portrait taken in Auburn, IN prior to becoming David Nathaniel Fitch's wife in 1887. (c. 1885)

Were our ancestors aboard the Mayflower?

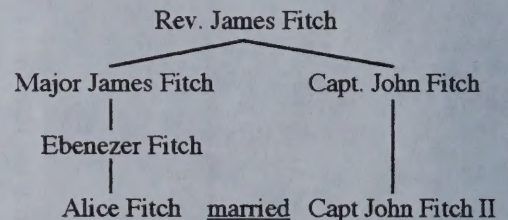
According to the 1972 Fitch Family History Book and my mother, Lucille Cassell, the Fitches were descended from none other than Governor William Bradford, who arrived in Plymouth, MA in 1620 aboard the Mayflower.

Our alleged connection to the Mayflower passengers was as follows:

Gov. William Bradford (c.1589-1613) & Alice Carpenter
Major William Bradford (1624-1703/4) & Alice Richards
Alice Bradford (1659-1745) & Rev. William Adams
& Major James Fitch
Ebenezer Fitch (1689-1724) & Bridget Brown
Alice Fitch (1713-1796) & Capt. John Fitch II
John Fitch III (1732-1755) & Mercy Lathrop
John Fitch IV (1756-1816) & 2 unnamed
Nathaniel Fitch Sr. & Sarah Keeler
Nathaniel Fitch & Sarah DeLong

Betty Fitch's recent genealogical research calls into question the bold-faced links in the above genealogy. While we may have a connection the Mayflower passengers, it is almost certainly not the one described in the 1972 Fitch Family History Book.

There is an interesting sidelight to the above genealogy.



Major James Fitch and Capt. John Fitch were brothers, although they had different mothers. That means that Capt. John Fitch II married his cousin Ebenezer's daughter. Given other evidence of even first Fitch cousins marrying in early colonial America, this second cousin marriage isn't all that unusual. Today, we would say that they were swimming in the shallow end of the gene pool.

Fitch Family Deaths Since the 1994 Reunion

Eunice Balch Fitch	James Walter Moudy
Bernice Strayer Fitch	Donald Lee Stratton
L. David Brogren	Carolyn Kell Davis
Elizabeth L. Fitch	Lucille Ozanne Cassell
Belinda Raub Sloffer	Loren H. Shirk
Kimberly S. Flickinger	Maurine Little Fitch
Elizabeth Fitch Pearson	Jason C. Lyons
Stephen David Fitch II	Kenneth Duane Fitch
James C. MacInnes	Esther Doll Fitch
Leann Caple Holcomb	John Evan Fitch
Sarah Elizabeth DeBolt	Lucinda M. Fitch
Herman Rawles Moudy	Otto A. Silha